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FEMINIST REVIEW

FEMINIST REVIEW BELIEVES THAT ALL OPINIONS - POSITIVE AND CRITICAL - ARE VALUABLE AND SEEKS TO GIVE VOICE TO COMMUNITIES THAT REMAIN ON THE MARGINS. OUR MISSION IS TO WRITE REVIEWS FROM FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES TO EXPLORE THE WORLD THROUGH AN ANTI-OPPRESSION LENS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE MANY FEMINISMS AND PROVIDE A SPACE WHERE THOSE DIFFERENCES CAN BE REPRESENTED AND EXPLORED. (THAT MEANS WE WANT YOU TO ADD YOUR OPINIONS TOO.)

MONDAY, JULY 21, 2008

All You Need Is Love

Zeit Media Limited

Imagine a magical visual encyclopedia dedicated to all things meaningful in music. Imagine for a moment - like John Lennon - that British director Tony Palmer, who is a true historian of popular music, could pull off such an endeavor. What you'd end up imagining is an extraordinary film, and with [All You Need Is Love](#), that's exactly what you get.



[All You Need Is Love](#) is Palmer's exceptional music documentary, an ambitious and inspired work that was filmed in the mid-1970s and captures the primary creative energy from each of the time's major streams of popular music. This includes stellar musicians from Blues, Jazz, Vaudeville, Country, Western, and Rock and Roll: The Beatles, Dizzy Gillespie, Liberace, Aretha Franklin, Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis Presley, Tina Turner, Eric Clapton, and Alice Cooper (because Alice Cooper is in every music documentary) among numerous others.

If you're like me, music plays an important role in your life, and I found this film informative, richly researched, and simply fascinating. It's a cultural education of the highest sort that tells the story of popular music through the people primarily involved in its evolution. Throughout the film, Palmer travels widely, capturing interviews and powerful performances. His canvas is broad and complete with color and texture, leaving leaves little, if any, details out. In fact, that's what makes [All You Need Is Love](#) so impressive. Even though the film carries a watermark more than 30 years old, it never struck me as outdated. If anything, the '70s film stock makes it more visually beautiful and genuine.

The DVD set contains five discs with seventeen episodes for a total of 14 hours and 42 minutes. The subjects are the actual creators, rather than actors or imitators. It's their story told on screen - the history of music in first person - and it's well worth buying.

Review by Laura Koffler



KEY TERMS: [BLUES](#), [COUNTRY](#), [DOCUMENTARY](#), [JAZZ](#), [MUSIC](#), [ROCK](#), [TELEVISION](#), [VAUDEVILLE](#)

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WHO IS FEMINIST REVIEW?

Feminist Review is the collective work of 400+ writers and one editor. Each week you will find a different writer's bio featured here.



NEIL FLOWERS

Neil Flowers is an award-winning playwright. His poetry is published by We Press, Santa Cruz and Little Wing Press, Toronto. He co-authored a teleplay that Jim Henson Films produced as a feature and writes a monthly online screenwriting column for Authorlink.com. He works as an assistant director on films, and his specialty is choreographing extras for crowd scenes. He has an M.F.A. in Playwriting and M.A. in Theatre and Dance.

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