



POPULAR MUSIC A-Z... Decades before VH1's *Behind The Music* was the favored music documentary designed to spill the secrets about the lives and careers of various Rock and Roll luminaries, **Tony Palmer's** exhaustive 17-episode music documentary, *All You Need Is Love*, served as the definitive overview of 20th century popular music. Since its initial airing in the late '70s, the program has been out of circulation... until now. Just released by MVD (Music Video Distributors) is the complete 14-hour plus documentary as a five-DVD set, which traces the roots of popular music through the late '70s music scene. Lauded by none other than **John Lennon** as "a monumental achievement," what makes *All You Need Is Love* (a title suggested by Lennon) such an achievement is that beyond Rock and Roll, through rare performance footage and insightful interviews, it documents the history behind a myriad of musical genres including Ragtime, Gospel, Blues, Jazz, vaudeville and music hall, Tin Pan Alley, Swing, Country, R&B, Folk and more.

For this viewer, the episodes showcasing Rock and Roll were the most riveting. *Hail! Hail! Rock 'n Roll*, which focuses on '50s rockers **Elvis Presley, Little Richard, Gene Vincent** and **Bill Haley & The Comets**, combines period footage and interviews to create a gripping document. *Mighty Good*, which charts the rise of **The Beatles**, features rarely seen archival interviews with John Lennon, **Paul McCartney** and **Ringo Starr**, famed New York deejay **Murray "The K,"** Beatles' press officer **Derek Taylor** and early manager **Allan Williams**. Later episodes like *Whatever Gets You Through The Night*, which chronicles the Glitter Rock explosion, is also a must see, showcasing rare footage of **KISS, Jethro Tull, Roxy Music, David Bowie** and **Alice Cooper** in action. There's also rarely seen footage of **Keith Moon** laying down vocals in the studio for a track earmarked for his lone solo LP, *Two Sides Of The Moon*.

Series creator and director **Tony Palmer** recently told British newspaper *The Telegraph Journal*: "Nobody had done it. Arguably the most important movement of the 20th century, it wasn't thought of as important. Well, we now know it is. What the series did, originally, was to wake people up to that. Looking at it now retrospectively, it's value, if I can use that word, we got to a lot of people in a very short period of time, that are gone. **Bing Crosby, Hoagy Carmichael**, (late music critic) **Lester Bangs, Eubie Blake** actually talked to **Scott Joplin**. It's an important source of archive. Not just people, places. **Sam Phillips** took us into the original studio where he recorded **Elvis**. It's now a Wal-Mart. Beale Street in Memphis - gone. The Cavern - gone. We were in the right time at the right place... The thing that we tried to do was put this phenomenon of popular music in some sort of context. This is an introduction. It's not the whole story. It says what you have is incredibly important. This thing called popular music is not just the **Spice Girls**. It's important and central to the type of culture you have. The ignorance of cultural history, of the things that have gone into the making of the world as it is today, is appalling."

- Ken Sharp