



Tony Palmer's All

You Need Is Love

The Story Of Popular Music

MVD/Voiceprint DVD

The release of award-winning director Tony Palmer's 17-episode miniseries on the history of popular music is a sight to behold.

Condensed into a five DVD set, the mini-series begins with African tribal music and European folk music origins, running all the way through, what Palmer calls "new directions of rock 'n' roll."

For those of you thinking, "Oh, this is just another rock doc," you couldn't be more wrong. Palmer runs the gamut, the episodes range from ragtime, jazz, blues, Tin Pan Alley standards, vaudeville, musicals, swing, rhythm & blues, country, war and protest songs and a few different forms of rock 'n' roll. The interviews and the live performance footage are amazing. I especially enjoyed the interviews with the Tin Pan Alley writers.

The country music episode was also a standout for me, I loved the clips of Minnie Pearl on stage at the Grand Old Opry. The rare footage is of interest as well, with great clips of The Beatles, The Who, Rolling Stones, Jethro Tull, Roxy Music and many others. Although, I can't for the life of me understand why they included clips of Keith Moon (of The Who) recording his solo album. But that is what makes this documentary so unique, and at the same time, it's also what makes it a bit of a drawback.

All You Need Is Love is a great piece for the time it was made, but unfortunately, the series was filmed in '76, so it's about music up until that point. In other words, punk rock, new wave, rap and heavy metal as we know it, weren't really forms of music yet, so they aren't included.

I was amused by Palmer's thought process, but as history shows, he was a little bit off. While All You Need Is Love might be a little bit dated, it is still a fascinating look back at the history of music. | **RDW**

- Willy Wilson