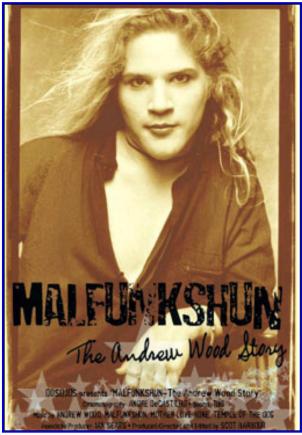
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A Dangerous Drunken Screwball

<u>Time For Fuzz With Fizzy Lipton – Soul Survivors: Malfunkshun – The</u> Andrew Wood Story @ The Hard Rock Café...

Posted on June 28, 2010 by DJC



Malfunkshun: The Andrew Wood Story. Many thanks to Fizzy Lipton, Wind Hughes and the boy that was so much better than soup, the late, great, Andy Wood.

Soul Survivors

Sneak Preview of 'Malfunkshun: The Andy Wood Story – a film by Scot Barbour Kevin Wood with Malfunkshun and All Hail the Crown The Hard Rock Café, Seattle 6.25.10

When I first moved to Seattle I got a job at the Raison D'être Café as a replacement for Jeff Ament. The view out of the kitchen window was the side of the Vogue where someone had painted Mother Love Bone in giant letters. One day Jeff

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stopped in to tell some people about his new band, and that's when a co-worker told me he and another guy had worked there, played together in Mother Love Bone, and now the other guy was dead. Before I went to see Malfunkshun: The Andy Wood Story, that was all I knew about his life and music. By the end of the film though I didn't just know *about* Andy, I felt like I *knew* Andy.

On the surface, this is your typical 'Behind the Music' tale: talent-fame-drugs-death. But this isn't the story of Andy Wood the musician; this is the story of Andy Wood the person. Director Scot Barbour managed to steer clear of clichés and instead create a beautifully made film with reverence for its subject. His skillful editing combines visually dazzling graphics and archival footage with heartfelt testimony from band mates, friends, and family (most notably Kevin, and Toni Wood) to create an in-depth, honest portrait of a free spirit tortured by personal demons. Lyrics like "I know my name is pain" make it clear that Andy used music to try and exorcise those demons. He also used drugs. This film explores the dysfunctional family environment that produced both the outgoing entertainer persona Landrew and the private addict struggling desperately to sort out feelings of pain and love. The tragedy of Andy's story is not that he almost made it to superstardom; it's that he almost made it to being a survivor.

I went into this movie expecting to be informed, possibly entertained. What I did not expect was to be so moved. I'm not exactly known for my warm and fuzzy side but by the end of the film I was in tears along with the rest of the audience. There are some genuinely funny moments in the film, because Andy was a funny guy. Throughout the screening people were alternately laughing, crying, singing along, and in a few cases openly weeping. This was not just any audience though. These were the friends and family of Andy Wood (I was in line behind one of his aunts) and judging by their applause it seems that his memory is served well by this movie.

After the film Scot Barbour, Jack Endino, Kevin Wood (Andy's brother), and Toni Wood (Andy's mother) took the stage and each said a few words about Andy. Barbour gave a lot of credit to Toni Wood, who makes some of the most poignant statements in the movie. She responded by saying "When Scott first came to me about making this film people said I shouldn't trust him, but he wanted to listen to me talk about Andy so I couldn't say no." It struck me at that moment that they were all survivors; that this movie and this moment were about closure and healing for them. Kevin and Toni had lived through the abuse, the loss, and were now generous enough to share Andy's story with the rest of us.

I was overwhelmed by emotion and had to leave before I too was openly weeping. I wandered up First Avenue and ended up on Virginia Street outside the old Raison D'être where Andy, Jeff, and eventually I had worked. It's vacant now and the emptiness of it just underscored my mood. I got back to the Hard Rock just as Kevin Wood's new band All Hail the Crown took the stage. He can still shred with the best of them and the jubilant energy between the crowd and band made it obvious that this night wasn't just a celebration of one man's life, but life itself. –Fizzy Lipton

Malfunkshun: The Andy Wood Story is set to be released by Universal Studios this summer.

The Malfunkshun CD 'Monument' by Kevin Wood and From the North is set to be released on July 12th. on Wammybox records – featuring lyrics by Andrew Wood and music by Kevin Wood.

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All Hail The Crown. Photo by August Heinrich.



Kevin Wood and Malfunkshun featuring members of From the North, 2010. Photo by August Heinrich.

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If boozing was an olympic event, we would be on a box of Wheaties. If this all sounds familiar to you (and your mother), welcome home.

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