



# The Rock and Roll Film Encyclopedia

*John Kenneth Muir*

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## **The Rock and Roll Film Encyclopedia** John Kenneth Muir

(Applause Books). "One great rock show can change the world" says Jack Black's character Dewey Finn in the 2003 Richard Linklater comedy *The School of Rock*. This exhaustive, highly-detailed, yet reader-friendly A-to-Z encyclopedia takes that lesson to heart by gazing at half-a-century of rock 'n' roll films, big screen epics both celebrated and obscure. From the 1950s and the age of "juvenile delinquents" in films such as *Blackboard Jungle* to more intimate, twenty-first century rock band portraits such as *Metallica: Some Kind of Monster*, this book by noted film authority John Kenneth Muir also features entries on rock documentaries such as Martin Scorsese's *The Last Waltz*, movies starring rock stars including the Sting vehicle *The Bride*, and even films boasting extensive rock soundtracks, for example George Lucas's paean to the age of cruising, *American Graffiti*. The Rock and Roll Film Encyclopedia includes: \* 230 film entries from 1956 through 2005, including cast list, creative personnel, M.P.A.A. rating, running time, and DVD availability. \* Entries on the familiar conventions of this unique cinematic form, such as the Vietnam War, the ubiquitous press conference (in which band members wax philosophical), the rampant destruction of property (hotel rooms, specifically) and even the Yoko factor (meddling girlfriends). Biographical entries on players who made significant impact on the silver screen, from Elvis Presley and The Beatles to Alice Cooper and Prince. Interviews with rock movie directors Allan Arkush (*Rock 'n' Roll High School*), Martin Davidson (*Eddie and the Cruisers*) and Albert Magnoli (*Purple Rain*). Peter Smokler, the cinematographer who shot the Rolling Stones' *Gimme Shelter*, the Jimi Hendrix film *Jimi at Berkeley*, and *This Is Spinal Tap* is also interviewed. \* In addition to pure rock 'n' roll, the films included cover all genres of popular music, ranging from Johnny Cash to Madonna, rock-influenced musical theatre (*Jesus Christ Superstar*), tejano (*Selena*), disco (*Can't Stop the Music*, *Xanadu*), and reggae. Whether your "one great rock show" is a beach movie starring Frankie Avalon and Annette Funicello, a misbegotten horror/rock fusion like *The Horror of Party Beach*, or a rib-tickling, heavy metal mockumentary like *This Is Spinal Tap*, you'll find all your favorites remembered in the pages of *The Rock and Roll Film Encyclopedia*.

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