

Six of The Strangest Movies Made By Musical Groups

It's not if they were on drugs, it's how much and what kind

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Image from Head

Why would a successful musical group want to make a movie? If you're great at at one thing why not stick with it? What is it that makes musical acts want to get into Hollywood?

I'm not talking about documentaries or mockumentaries or biopics where the musicians are filmed being themselves.

These are weird movies with musicians playing dramatic roles. Here's the criteria for my list:

- Must feature a musical group with all members in the movie.
- The band is acting from a script.
- The movie is produced or co-produced by the band.

Lady Gaga's *A Star is Born* wouldn't qualify because she didn't produce it and no band. Metallica's *Some Kind of Monster* wouldn't qualify because it's a documentary. Brett Michaels *A Letter From Death Row* wouldn't qualify because Poison isn't in it.

Spinal Taps' *This is Spinal Tap* sorta qualifies as it meets the above criteria but they didn't become a real band until after the movie. The Spice Girls' *Spice World* would qualify, but didn't make the cut.

Ranking these films is impossible. Listed in no particular order because these movies are all insane in their own way.

Kiss Meets The Phantom of The Park 1977

Ack!

Kiss was at the height of their popularity in 1978. Their business manager decided the group had taken the music thing as far as it could go. He turned Kiss into the band famous for putting their logo on [absolutely anything](#) and

have gone on five farewell tours and four reunion tours. This movie a perfect example of Kiss being the biggest sell outs in rock music history.

Reportedly it wasn't meant to be a B movie. The band had hoped to release this in the theaters but after seeing the finished product it went directly to TV. Just don't bring up this movie to the band Kiss as it allegedly pisses them off.

Spirit animal drug: Booze. It's overconfidence in movie form. They thought they were making Star Wars but it was a live action Scooby-Doo episode. Unsurprisingly the movie was made by Hannah Barbara.

The Who — Tommy 1975

Tommy is a movie about a boy who witnesses the murder of his presumed dead father by his mothers new lover rendering Tommy deaf, dumb, and blind. His parents try to cure him by leaving him with people who rape, beat, and drug him.

Didn't work.

He grows up and becomes the worlds most famous pinball player until his mom throws him through a mirror at which point he is healed and becomes a spiritual leader. Then he opens a trailer park where people can follow his teachings while playing pinball but they murder Tommy's family instead.

The Who's Tommy is one of my favorite movies of all time. There's nothing else like it. It's best viewed when coming down from hallucinogens. I love showing this movie to people who haven't seen or heard of it. You will never forget this movie. It's a work of visual insanity for the ages.

Spirit animal drug: I know a guy who's family friends with Tina Turner. He was at a party at her house and he started asking her questions about Tommy. Tina finally says, "Honey, I was so high on mescaline I don't remember none of that."

So mescaline.

The Monkees — Head 1968

If they didn't get the funniest looks from everyone they met before they will now

The Monkees careers were over before this movie was released. Their TV series had been canceled when the movie was half finished. They were a manufactured band to begin with. Why bother finishing the movie?

Jack Nicolson wrote the script and convinced The Monkees that the movie would reinvent them. The purpose of *Head* was to change the perception of the band from manufactured bubblegum to the visionaries they saw them self as. It didn't work but it made for a really weird swan song.

I like imagining an eight year old Monkees fan in the late

sixties going to a movie theater and being presented this. Not even the Monkees know what this is about. The producers named it Head so they could say in the trailer for their next movie, "From the Producers Who Gave You Head."

Spirit animal drug: Acid is the only explanation.

The Bee Gees — Sgt. Peppers Lonely Hearts Club Band 1978

(Sniiiiiff) Oh wow. We should remake the Beatles' Sargent Pepper. But disco. And we can get Aerosmith and Earth Wind And Fire and Peter Frampton and Alice Cooper and we'll all wear satin marching band outfits!

(Sniiiiiiif) Sounds cool.

It was... Interesting. This movie is a pure musical and I was debating including it but there's no denying the strangeness of this film. It pops up on television every few years to confuse a new generation by it's mere existence.

Spirit animal drug: Cocaine obviously. And lots of it.

Frank Zappa — 200 Motels 1971

If you've ever wondered what a movie made with zero effort and no plot would look like, this is the answer. While the other movies on this list are at least visually impressive, this is crap. If you like Zappa's music, you still won't be able to

sit through this movie.

Frank Zappa claimed to never have touched drugs, but everyone else making this movie had to be higher than shit. Supposedly this film was only a third finished before a member of Zappa's band quit and they released what they had.

This movie is unwatchable. They never even so much as drive by one motel. Zappa was in his own movie for less than five minutes. The whole movie is an early example of trolling.

Spirit animal drug: Heroin. It promises to be an experience but it's a bunch of drummers hanging out smoking cigarettes and mumbling inaudibly.

Prince and The Revolution — Purple Rain 1984

This is the most normal of all the movies, but it's got Prince. It's weird because Prince was weird. He's acting but being himself.

The lake Minnetonka that isn't lake Minnetonka scene above was filmed in November and it was freezing. Apollonia almost drown because she went into shock jumping in the water. Then she did it four more times.

The actor who played Billy voiced his concerns to Prince. Prince told him, "She getting paid."

Spirit animal drug: It's Prince so ecstasy.