

# ***UNSCENE***

THE GOLDEN ERA OF INDIE



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The late 80's / early 90's were an interesting time for music. The UK & the US were simultaneously cultivating their own underground scenes within different genres that would go on to shape the planet's musical tastes in the 90's. The hardcore scene in the US gave - for those among us that were frustrated - a grittier more anti-establishment outlook on life & the slacker grunge scene an adopted apathy. In the UK we had acid house which made us live for the weekend and big-hair rock which is responsible for some of the most terrible fashions and hairstyles to date. All of the above were important and meant a great deal to the youth of that era, each of which have been well documented and filed in the archives.... But - in my opinion - there is a sweet spot in this era that hasn't been properly documented, that also meant a great deal to a lot of people globally & which doesn't receive the respect it's due despite the impact it had and the musicians it has influenced: the era of 'indie'.

Although 'indie' means something a lot different these days; from 1988 to 1993 bands such as Pop Will Eat Itself, Ned's Atomic Dustbin, The Wonder Stuff, Jesus Jones, EMF, Carter USM & Senseless Things gave a voice, identity, attitude and fashion sense to a generation. Their music sounded fresh, upbeat and their message was delivered positively. Indie was a musical representation of a collective consciousness of the time and for those of us that were looking for a scene to define us what we found was good clean fun, long floppy hair, great logos, wives, husbands & life long friends.



## THE FILM

Why make this film now over 20 years after it's heyday? Well, as we stand in 2015 we find ourselves in a time where people - from all age groups - crave nostalgia. This could be for many reasons; it could be the fact that in this digital age we consume creative output in a very different way and the younger generations lament the analogue days. Or maybe the primal sense of tribalism within music scenes was stronger before social networking.

Long before eBay, iTunes & the internet in general; fans stood in-line to buy 12inch releases from their local record store, rare tour t-shirts were coveted and sought after, music papers were studied, diligently made mix-tapes were swapped and at the more extreme end of the scale - your friends & lovers were defined by which bands they listened to. As a fan you really had to work and make sacrifices for your relationship with a band.

The premise of this film is to honestly capture and present the humble beginnings of each of these bands, how they shaped their sound, their rise to fame, how they dealt with that fame and the responsibility of suddenly becoming the voice of a scruffy generation.

This film will document and celebrate this special time and recount some of the key legacies that it left behind; the artwork, the infusion of technology into their music, iconic venues, the fashion and most importantly; the intense loyalty of the fans.

However, nothing lasts forever, and this film will also document the scene's eventual demise and why most of these hard working bands called it a day in the mid to late 90's and what they did after the intense indie roller-coaster. The film will then tell pick up the story of each bands reformation or ended hiatus in the mid 00's to where they are today.

This is the really interesting twist in the tail; for a lot of the band's fans the flame never died, they are still as loyal today as they were 20 years ago. Since bouncing back onto the scene, repeatedly everyone of these bands regularly sell out big venues when they play live.

With that in mind, the film will feature interviews with the fans and the bands that perpetuated the scene to create a dual dialogue documenting the good times, to the bad, to the present. From the fans we hear their stories, delve into their record collection and rifle through their ticket stubs and tour t-shirts and through this film we find out what keeps bringing people back and how much these bands mean to them.

## PRODUCTION

The backbone of the film will be constructed from original content; interviews and b-roll from various band members & dedicated fans. Essentially the film will be a chronological point-of-view dialogue between the fans & the artists.

Live footage exclusive performances will be shot (where possible) for each band still touring.

## POST PRODUCTION

To truly represent the era we'll need to use archive footage and photographs from the years 1989-1994. This will be used to illustrate & punctuate the film. I think the most interest card we have to play visually with this film is the juxtaposition between then and now as the jarring difference between crisp the high definition original content shot for the documentary and the standard definition VHS quality of the archive will pop us in and out of the 'moment'.