

Anvil! The Story of Anvil

USA 2008

Director

Sacha Gervasi

Produced By

Rebecca Yeldham

Cinematography

Christopher Soos

Original Score

David Norland

Cast

Steve 'Lips' Kudlow
Vocals & lead guitar

Robb Reiner
drums

Gary Greenblatt
Original bass player

Ivan Hurd
Guitar, 1995 to present

Glenn 'G5' Gyorffy
Bass, 1996 to present

80 minutes

Our second music documentary in a month, *Anvil* offers a very different story to *Afghan Star* which opened our mini-season at the University. Whilst no one on the committee has seen it, the strength of reviews convinced us we're on to one of the hits of the season tonight. Let us know what you think! And our mini-season continues next Thu 6 May (6:50pm at The Vault) with Werner Herzog's most recent stunning documentary – *Encounters at the End of the World*.

The movie gracefully achieves a tough balancing act. It's easy to laugh at heavy metal guys and the filmmakers could have settled on a condescending tone throughout. It also could have veered into over-long self-seriousness, much in the same way the Metallica documentary *Some Kind of Monster* did. But these are people we actually care a lot about. They're likable, funny and worth getting to know. When we laugh and wince as much as we do in the first half-hour of the movie, it's because of the situations, not because of the people in them. These aren't guys who can afford to have a psychiatrist in the recording studio on a daily basis. They are their own doctors and when things fall apart, we want to see them pick up the pieces themselves.

Collin Souter, *efilmcritic*

If you were to apply Darwin's theory of natural selection to the world of heavy metal, the result would play pretty much like *Anvil! The Story of Anvil*. Despite the Spinal Tap connotations and the nagging feeling that they must be having you on, *Anvil!* is a documentary not a mockumentary. Gervasi was a roadie for the Canadian band back in his teens, and after a career that's included writing Spielberg's *The Terminal*, he's decided to catch up with core members Steve 'Lips' Kudrow and Robb Reiner as they try to resurrect the band. Gervasi stays well out of the documentary – his fondness for the band apparent but not overriding. One thing's for sure: he's going to get them in front of their biggest audience for years, albeit in the comfort of the cinema.

Laura Bushell, *Little White Lies*

Everyone is comparing *Anvil* to *This is Spinal Tap*, but as (head hangs in shame) I haven't seen it I can only review it on its own merits. And these, believe me, are many! *Anvil* is a superbly crafted documentary of such rare sweetness that only the hardest of hearts will be able to resist. In this world of instant celebrity and manufactured stars, *Anvil* presents a refreshing, touching and real look at the trials & tribulations of keeping the faith.

Coco Forsythe, *Future Movies*

Our next film at The Screen

Waltz with Bashir (Israel)

Tues 11 May 2010

Dir: Ari Forlan

Visually dazzling animated documentary about the '82 Sabra-Shatila massacres.

