

“Heavy Metal Junior” Review

By Meaghan Mccallum

The first shot of this Scottish documentary goes to a ten year old sitting next to his mother while she nags him about cutting his hair; an innocent exchange that occurs between mother and youth all the time. Ah, but the story behind it is different than most. The only word that describes why he won't cut his hair is “Hatred”.

What do you do when you live in small town Scotland, and your dad has a recording studio, fully supplied with instruments? Here's an idea: start a band and call it Hatred. Well, that is exactly what Elliot and his friends do.

Paul the lead singer, Elliot the drummer, Robbie the bassist, Liam the guitarist, and Michael the keyboardist have a gig in two weeks and lots of work to do. The pressure is on to get ready for their first performance. Plus, they have to endure obstacles such as a lazy bass player, ear-splitting vocal coaching, and an out of place letter which makes a big difference in their name. In spite of these difficulties, they still put on a great, however controversial, show.

This movie really shows an incredible view of these kids' lives and how their dreams affect them. I would recommend this “Portrait of Pre-Teen Rebellion” to all pre-teens interested in making their way through a culture of indulgence.

“Heavy Metal Junior” Review

By: Alaine Miller

“Heavy Metal Junior: A Portrait of Pre-Teen Rebellion.” So the short film begins, documenting the band Hatred, a small group of five boys between the ages of ten and thirteen launching their dream as a heavy metal rock group. Over the course of the film, the boys struggle with the hardships and worries of a band coming out into the open for the first time. The boys put great effort into their dreams of becoming a band, and their parents follow right along behind them, aiding the boys and giving them the encouragement they need to fulfill and accomplish their goals.

What really struck me over the course of the film was the thought, “Do these boys really know what they're writing about, or are they just trying to fit into today's media?” All the songs seem to focus around the main points: rebellion, darkness, and anti-religion. But most importantly, I began to realize, the boys aren't just singing about darkness, they're singing about emptiness too. Emptiness of feeling the weight of life around them, and not knowing what to do to oppress it. They may see singing about the freedom they long for uplifting, and an escape from their life, into another place. Or, perhaps they see it simply as a way to push the limits, to test the boundaries of life as they know.

All-in-all, the movie seemed the type of movie anybody could enjoy, though it may not quite last under the short and ragged attention span of young children. The film seems to cover every aspect needed to see that time and work it takes to become committed to a band, and watching it makes one see that nothing can be accomplished without cooperation, and teamwork.

“Heavy Metal Junior” review

By: Kaya Morelli

Have you ever wanted to be in a band? Play at a concert with your friends? Or just make odd sounds on strange instruments? In this documentary, featuring five Scottish pre-teens, they do just that. Their band, named Hatred, includes their lead singer Paul who is ten, their drummer Elliot who is twelve, their guitarist Liam who is eleven, and their keyboardist Michael who is thirteen. They practice with set goals: to perfect their songs and when the time of the gig comes, they can blow their audience away with their exuberant skills. So far, they have two songs written: “Two gods don’t make a right” and “There’s no point in living life this way”. However, two days before the gig Elliot’s dad, the self appointed manager, tells them to go to the bedroom and write a new song. “Satan rocks” emerges from the pre-teens’ creative minds, and was quite a success for only just composing it two days before the concert.

If you are one of those kids *or* adults that have a band or would like to start one, then you would probably enjoy this movie of how hard they worked to keep going and meet their goals. The person filming this documentary really knows his angles: it is shot from some odd but exciting positions during this rocking film. There are some laughs set in this footage, but you will just have to find out where they occur when you watch it. But they face some difficulties. After the band sacks their old bass guitarist Grant, who is twelve, because they decide that he doesn’t “rock” enough, they hold auditions to their band. They select Robbie, who is eleven to be their new bass guitarist. An inspiring film about following through what you started even if you face difficulties.

“Heavy Metal Junior” Review

By Kayte Kerns

I think that “Heavy Metal Junior” is a documentary I would not recommend to anyone, least of all argumentative elementary school children and “rebellious” middle school pre-teens. In this movie, five pre-teen boys start a band titled “Hatred”, and they wrote songs such as “There’s No Point in Living Life This Way”, “Satan Rocks”, and “Two Gods Don’t Make a Right”. They are preparing for a “gig”, as they put it, and they kick out a member two weeks before the competition for the sole reason that

“he didn’t rock enough.” The members were Paul, who had long hair; Elliot, who wore a scarf covering everything between his nose his neck all the time because he hated his braces; Liam, who played guitar; Michael, who was the keyboardist, and Robbie, who played bass. The kid who was kicked out was Grant, and he played bass. When they get to the “gig”, they perform and, even though the faces in the audience appeared otherwise as “Satan Rocks” was performed, the band’s CDs sold out.

Some of the special effects used, like the slow motion and weird angles, would be nice on a documentary about some other topic, but they made it this documentary seem all too dramatic. Also, all the special effects were in one place, and they lasted about five seconds in all. Then there were basically no more special effects for the rest of the movie.

Paul’s mother said, in one interview, that there was not a satanic streak in their music. She actually turned “Two Gods Don’t Make a Right” into a religious song by saying that two gods don’t make a right, that there is only one god that makes a right. I think that in this movie the parents support their kids way too much. There is nothing healthy about letting pre-teen children start writing songs with lyrics like, “There is no point in living life this way/But I don’t have a choice,” and, “Satan rocks!” I could understand if the kids started this band without their parents knowing, but the parents closed their eyes to the problems these kids were obviously having and supported them throughout the whole thing. Elliot’s dad even acted as the manager and vocal coach – though he really can’t sing at all. This film makes me wonder what kind of lives and families these kids are coming from. Also, I wonder if they have problems at school. If they find the need to wear all black and write songs like that, I think they should talk to a counselor.

The subtitle of this movie is, “A Portrait of Pre-teen Rebellion.” I have to wonder – rebelling against what? They are in mostly fifth and sixth grade, with the oldest in seventh. Their parents provide them with expensive instruments and volunteer their time to watch them play and help them get better. What I would like to tell the parents is to get their kids involved in something healthy and less destructive. The kids do not need their support on absolutely everything.