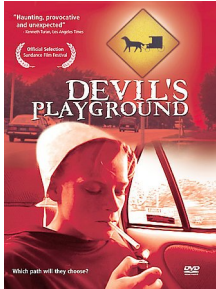


Sights and Sounds

Devil's Playground



[view in catalog](#)

ISBN:

0794202888

The Amish are most often thought of in regards to their strict religion, quality workmanship, and their horse and buggy culture. One aspect of their culture and beliefs that has not been well known until recently is the practice of ?rumspringa? [running around]. This is a rite of passage given to Amish teens in which they are allowed to experience the ways of the world, or as the title of the documentary suggests ?The Devil?s Playground,? for a period of one year. These young adults are allowed to experience the enticements of living in a technological world but they are often also exposed for the first time to the world of drugs, alcohol, sexual pleasure and crime. At the end of the year they choose whether to return to the Amish culture and its lifestyle or to remain in the outside world and its ways. **[Read more »](#)**

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Posted by Keith C. on Jun 25, 2014 [Keith C.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)



Noises Off



I've always liked films and plays that are about films and plays themselves.

Maybe it's because there is still a part of me that would have like to have been ?an actor.? (Said term must be pronounced with the air of exaggerated sophistication that implies the lack of same.) Noises Off is one of my favorites. It has an all-star comedy cast featuring Michael Caine, Carol Burnett, Denholm Elliott, Julie Hagerty, Marilu Henner, John Ritter, and Christopher Reeve. The story is about a group of actors in a touring company performing a comedic play that they hope will head to the big time. In this case the action behind the scenes is as funny, or funnier, than what is taking place on stage. The film gives us a chance to see the action

from both sides. From the front we see the play ?Nothing On,? from the back we see the interactions among the actors. There are affairs, personality conflicts, and drinking to the point of drunkenness. The term ?noises off? comes from the direction that backstage sounds are to cease, something that doesn?t exactly happen backstage in the movie.

Noises Off is a comedy based on the play by Michael Frayn. It is a fast paced and driven movie that reminds me quite a bit of some of the best skits from the Carol Burnett Show. In most plays backstage is an area of controlled chaos. In the case of the backstage action in Noises Off remove the word controlled. If you like a good, semi intelligent comedy mixed with slapstick and outrageous personalities you should give Noises Off a try.

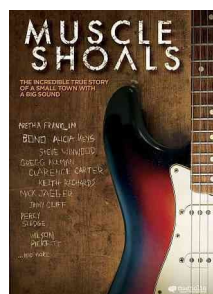
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Muscle Shoals



[view in catalog](#)

ISBN:

876964006347

Muscle Shoals is great music documentary about the "special sound" that came out of the studio recordings of this small town in Alabama that includes names like Percy Sledge, Aretha Franklin, The Rolling Stones, Lynryd Skynyrd, and The Allman Brothers (among others). Interviews with the studio musicians, the engineers, and some of the more famous people involved on the bands listed above help tell the story of this great place to make music. I was particularly interested in the story of the session musicians from that town, named "The Swampers" that played behind the varied kinds of musicians that came to record over the years. [Read more »](#)

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