



FILM: **MUSCLE SHOALS**

FDG RATING: 3.7 ☺☺☺☺○

Greg "Freddy" Camalier: *Director*

Aretha Franklin, Percy Sledge, Wilson Pickett, Mick Jagger, Greg Allman, Alicia Keys, Bono and more.....: *Cast (video clips)*

DATE: November 17, 2013

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **MUSCLE SHOALS**

**Muscle Shoals** documentary gave all of us a front row seat in the seminal recording sessions of music legends such as Aretha Franklin, Percy Sledge, Wilson Pickett, and countless more in a sound studio started in the 1960s in an unlikely small backroads Alabama town next to the Tennessee River. Muscle Shoals became a mecca to the Rolling Stones, and others seeking to capture the unique vibe and gritty sound that seemed to make each recording a hit record... with an even more unlikely houseband group of whitebread musicians (most famously "The Swampers") delivering the funky, soulful sounds.

Even our film lovers who had opted for classical and really never experienced this genre of rhythm and blues music, admitted it was an interesting documentary, with a peek into the business side of the recording industry, a good backstory about the reason Rick Hall started the music studio, and how the backdrop of segregation and racism was nonexistent with the artists. A few music lovers in our film group had actually been at the Day on The Green concerts in Oakland and one was sure she was the sunburned female in the film.

Great music, beautiful local scenery and footage, a huge accomplishment for a first time filmmaker on a shoestring budget, so even those who thought the mystical aspect of the river was a bit much, our collective vote, on a scale of 1-5, was 3.7



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*See you at the movies!*

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*Film Discussion Group (FDG) organizer*