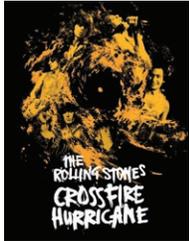


## REVIEWS

## THE ROLLING STONES

*Crossfire Hurricane*

[Eagle Rock]

From the beginning, people have asked the Rolling Stones how much of their image is an act. “All of it,” Mick Jagger says in one of the '60s interviews included in *Crossfire Hurricane*, a documentary produced by the band and aired last year on HBO to celebrate their 50th anniversary. By the '70s, the singer had changed his tune, and in another featured clip, Mick dismisses the claim he's a “shrewd” live performer. So which is it? Were the Stones a marketing gimmick—the bad-boy “anti-Beatles” dreamed up by manager Andrew Loog Oldham—or are they genuine rock 'n' roll outlaws immune to time, substance abuse and regrettable '80s fashions?

Probably a little of both. With no mention of the musicians' pre-Stones lives, *Crossfire* opens in the early '60s, when the band was on the rise. As guitarist Keith Richards explains in the 2012 interview he gave for the film (each of the Stones did likewise, with no cameras allowed), things went “crazy” midway through the first tour, and they only got crazier. The film zips through two decades of (mis)adventures, chronicling riotous early gigs, the death of founder Brian Jones, the ugliness of Altamont, Keith's various drug busts, and the band's unlikely emergence as universally loved stadium gods. The story ends in the early '80s, and while there are no major revelations about, say, Mick and Keith's complex relationship, the DVD warrants a spin simply for the footage of the Stones being the Stones, onstage and off. Even if they're acting, these are characters that continue to fascinate. —KP

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