



STONED

Although Frank Thorogood, a construction worker employed by Brian Jones, confessed on his deathbed to having murdered the ex-Rolling Stone, a motive for the crime was never established. With his first feature, "Stoned," director Stephen Wooley fails to set up a conflict between the two men, let alone develop a convincing case for murder. Wooley is more interested in emulating Nicolas Roeg's 1970 film "Performance" than in making the story his own. In style and content, this movie is a weak imitation of that benchmark of sex, drugs, violence, narcissism, Satanism and rock 'n' roll. It is wrong from the start, with inaccurate lyrics sung to a black-and-white flashback of the Rolling Stones performing "Little Red Rooster." The narrative skips back and forth through the last five years of Jones' life, establishing time and place without giving specifics about events. The soundtrack is a mess, with period music out of sync with the period, as when the 1967 song, "White Rabbit," underscores a 1965 acid trip. One thing the movie gets right is the proliferation of pretty girls in and out of their mod fashions. The details of how Keith Richards appropriated Jones' girlfriend Anita Pallenberg, and how this affected Jones' relationship with the band, are whitewashed, but Sweden's Tuva Novotny's performance as Pallenberg is the naked truth. *(Bill White)*

GRADE: C-

At the Varsity through Thursday. 102 minutes. Unrated.

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