



World Television Premiere:
Call To Arms: The Story of The Royal Albert
Starts October 1st on MTS-TV's Winnipeg On Demand!

**Documentary finally tells the story of Winnipeg's iconic rock venue
The Royal Albert Arms**

September 21, 2009 – The true history of The Royal Albert Arms isn't in legal documents and newspaper clippings. If you really want to know it, you have to get your hands dirty; there's just no other way. Its story is layered on a pole in the centre of the bar, thick with stickers from bands who've played for a case of beer and a chance to slap their name alongside the likes of the UK Subs and Green Day. It's etched into washroom stalls and tabletops. And it's in the faces of fans, bands and staff who've inhabited the rundown rock grotto for decades.

The Albert is infamous, notorious, reviled and adored. It's off the beaten path in every respect – and fans like it that way. Writer/director Randy Frykas examines the heart and soul of this legendary music venue, chronicling its undisputed significance to the international music scene through the words and music of notable artists such as Bif Naked, the Dub Rifles, Propagandhi, Sloan, and High Five Drive.

'Call To Arms: The Story of the Royal Albert' debuts on MTS TV's Winnipeg on Demand Channel on Thursday, October 1st. Produced by Jeff Newman, the Gemini-Award winning director of *'Hockey Brawl: Battle on Thin Ice'* (CTV, 2006), *'Call to Arms'* reveals the hotel's perpetual life in the shadows and the community that seeks to preserve The Albert in all its acrid glory.

Frykas, whose credits include the documentary *'Sabrina's Law'* (Global Television/NFB, 2007), says the deep affection punk fans have for The Albert stems from the fact that they relate to it. "Punks walk a different path than most," says Frykas. "and their virtues are often overlooked. It was the same for The Albert. It never really fit in but still found its place in the city and in history. The Albert's story is the punk culture's story." *Cont'd*

Local legend Johnny Sizzle guides the viewer through the labyrinth of places

and players that put The Albert on the map alongside now-defunct punk meccas like CBGB's in New York, Smiling Buddha Cabaret in Vancouver, and The Embassy in London, Ontario. These landmark rock dens played major roles in the rock and punk scenes over the last thirty years. Now The Albert stands alone. With its sordid past and uncertain future, this may truly be time for a '*Call to Arms.*'

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