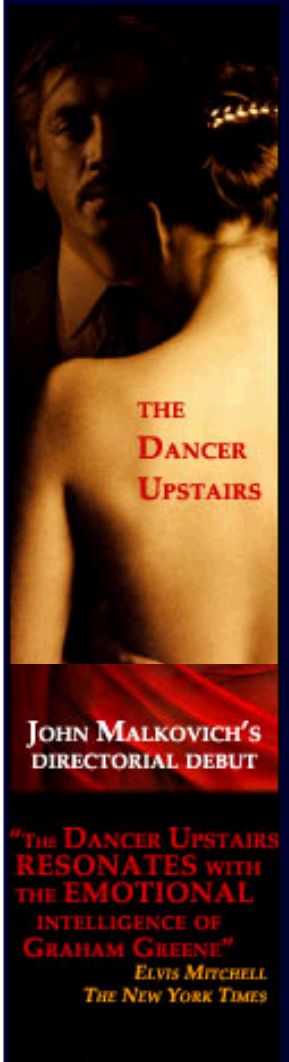


David Poland's

THE **HOT** BUTTON



monday
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January 30, 2003

GREAT DOCS: I saw two great documentaries in the last two days. The first was a gloriously reflective film called *Rivers And Tides: Andy Goldsworthy Working With Time*.

The other doc is **Tom Dowd & The Language of Music**. I did my best to overlook this film when I saw it in the Sundance catalog. There was something about the photo and the title that jut seemed too CBS' Sunday Morning.

But I was wrong.

About 15 minutes into this film, I realized that we are in the midst of a run of 1960s music docs that Ken Burns will never have to travel because these films have done it so well. First, *Artisan's Standing in the Shadows of Motown*. I haven't seen Miramax's flip-side doc, *Only The Strong Survive*, but it was good enough to get into Telluride, so I trust that it's worth a long look. And now this, a document of the history of Atlantic Records through the eyes of one remarkable man.

But this is no dry tale. Tom Dowd was a key part of the evolution of the music that the Baby Boom grew up with and that still drives the music of today. He was more than a musician, more than an engineer and more than a producer. He was the ultimate muse to band after band after band.

It seems to have taken until this moment in time for filmmakers to look at the 60s through any prism other than Vietnam. Thank goodness the time is here. Filmmaker **Mark Moormann** does an excellent job bringing together archival footage, new stuff and lots and lots of great music in a film that manages to be a personality piece that is more a celebration of the music than of anyone's ego.