

06.04 - DOCUMENTARY DISCUSSION: "Standing in the Shadows of Motown" - Motown 1

***Standing in the Shadows of Motown* (Documentary)**

Instructions: View the documentary *Standing in the Shadows of Motown* (Vimeo) at least one full time and make notes for yourself about important features & events. Formulate ideas and opinions regarding what you viewed. Make an initial post no later than Friday, October 9, 11:59 pm. Your initial post should be (in your own words, not plagiarized) one-two short paragraphs and **SHOULD NOT** be a **summary** of the documentary, but rather **observations, reactions, and connections** [your reading and other relevant information]. You might include topics covering musical performances, historical references, and other relevant topics.

- Post your **initial** reaction/comments by **Friday, Oct 09 (11:59 pm)**
- **Reply to two (2) other comment threads** by **Sunday, Oct 11 (11:59 pm)**

This documentary runs about 1 hour, 40 minutes - **allow plenty of time to watch the video.**

Discussion Topics may include but are not limited to:

- How did the contributions of the Funk Brothers contribute to the "Motown" label *sound*?
- How do the Funk Brothers compare to the music provided by various members of the Wrecking Crew
- (Links to an external site.)
- ? (any similarities? differences?) [see videos below for reference]
- Compared with Booker T. and the MG's (house band for Stax Records, Memphis, TN) [see videos below for reference]
- Do you feel the Funk Brothers fairly credited with the work they produced? How or how not? (workers/studio musicians for hire?)
- What was the benefit of having a "house band" (Motown, Stax, etc.)?
- Musical tribute performances (from 2002)
- Session (studio) Musician Article: [The legal basics of working with session musicians](#)

*** *Standing in the Shadows of Motown* (2002) ***

Standing in the Shadows of Motown is a 2002 documentary film directed by Paul Justman that recounts the story of The Funk Brothers, the uncredited and largely unheralded studio musicians who were the house band that Berry Gordy hand-picked in 1959.

Other OPTIONAL videos for reference:

(YouTube Video) [*The Wrecking Crew*](#)

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

(2008) (links to YouTube Video)

(YouTube Videos) *Respect Yourself: The Stax Records Story* - incomplete (2007)

The story of Stax records:

<https://youtu.be/nmlzNX0Cr7k>

<https://youtu.be/jFYjcxwcxcs>

<https://youtu.be/1XHwHB0i9TA>

<https://youtu.be/qd3Yu9AHpU0>

<https://youtu.be/6nQQoRzyBOA>

<https://youtu.be/Ci23q5l6nAA>

<https://youtu.be/bOkeRddrDqc>