



Brothers of the Head

**Keith Fulton,
Louis Pepe**

UNITED KINGDOM, 2005
English

90 minutes ■ Colour/35mm

Production Company:

Potboiler Productions

Executive Producer: **Tony Grisoni,**

Lisa Marie Russo

Producer: **Gail Egan,**

Simon Channing Williams

Screenplay: **Tony Grisoni,**

based on the novel by Brian Aldiss

Cinematographer: **Anthony Dod Mantle**

Editor: **Bill Diver**

Production Designer: **Jon Henson**

Sound: **Tim Barker**

Music: **Clive Langer**

Principal Cast: **Luke Treadaway,**

Harry Treadaway, Tania Emery,

Sean Harris, Bryan Dick

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A raucous ride through a burning flash of glory in seventies British rock music, *Brothers of the Head* is an utterly uncharacterizable tour de force from two of the world's most interesting emerging directors. Neither truly fake documentary nor fly-on-the-wall tour film – although it tips its hat to both those genres – the film perhaps feels most like underground horror, with characteristic physical expressions of psychological trauma in abundance. This should come as no surprise, as sci-fi guru Brian Aldiss authored the novel on which it is based. It also absolutely, definitively has the coolest soundtrack of any movie this year: a sweltering hybrid of Small Faces-styled classic rock and early, hyper-angry UK punk.

The film follows a pair of conjoined twin brothers who are plucked from rural obscurity, groomed into rock stars and soon launched on an unsuspecting music scene as the “next big thing.” The abusive manager, slicked-back impresario, two-faced journalists, groupies galore, booze and drugs and more booze and more drugs fill in the gaps.

Yet the film operates on a totally different level than these motifs would suggest for two reasons: pitch-perfect and intimately detailed direction, plus two astonishing, ferocious performances from real-life twins Luke and Harry Treadaway. You can taste the insanely close, almost erotic intimacy of the boys. When they become aware of the manipulations around them, their bursts of anger make for extremely chilling cinema indeed.

Directors Keith Fulton and Louis Pepe are erudite students of film and film language; *Lost in La Mancha*, their scathing documentary about Terry Gilliam's abandoned “Don Quixote” project, is one of the more telling tomes about the perils of the artistic process. Their powers are used here to create a runaway locomotive of a narrative that jumps all over time, space and genre to create a prismatic look at these two impossible, perfect characters from a history only half-imagined.

■ **Noah Cowan**

Keith Fulton and **Louis Pepe** first worked together while studying film at Temple University in Philadelphia. In 1996 they directed their first of several making-of documentaries, *The Hamster Factor and Other Tales of Twelve Monkeys*, about the troubled production of Terry Gilliam's *Twelve Monkeys*. *Lost in La Mancha* (02) was an acclaimed behind-the-scenes look at the filming of Gilliam's abandoned version of “Don Quixote.” *Brothers of the Head* (05) is their first feature film.

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