

The Stands

by Ruben Fleischer

For the two seasons that *Hullabaloo* was released on the NBC airwaves (1965-1966) it failed to garner a significant television audience. One part *American Bandstand*, one part *Laugh In*, and one part psychedelic LA go-go madness, it is a strange document of a strange time. While audiences didn't respond to it back then, it is a wonderful collection of some of the greatest acts of the 60's - from Chuck Berry to Sonny & Cher, The Supremes, The Yardbirds, Dusty Springfield, and Smokey Robinson & The Miracles - all performed live on the show. I have always wanted to make a video in the style of *Hullabaloo*, and finally I think there is a song that would do the show justice, and benefit from its style and retro psychedelic Californian wonderment.

Here's the general Hullabaloo recipe: they would stage live performances on a big stage. They would create elaborate backdrops that sometimes related to the content of the song, but more commonly were just crazy 60's pop art. For example, when the Byrds played "The Times They Are A Changin'," they perform in a fake lake setting with two dimensional cut outs of hunting dogs, duck decoys scattered about, and super hot models in hunting gear holding shotguns. And when Gary Lewis and the Playboys played "Everybody Loves A Clown," the entire band is seated on different pieces of jungle gym equipment, there's a roller coaster backdrop, and there are young girls looking up at them as they play. There's no real rhyme or reason to any of it. There's also a lot of high energy go-go dancing thrown in for good measure, but the head bobbing and hip shaking make it impossible not to be entranced by the performances.

The camera work is typical televised live music performance coverage, with the exception of a studio crane that does these sweeping moves, taking a close up all the way out to a full wide in one fail swoop. For the video we would do several live takes of the band performing in various backdrops and scenarios and intercut them. I think the band should wear suits and thin ties a la the bands of the era. The set dressing will be somewhat specific to the song, a sun will be featured, and I think there should be some good Cali vibes. We will have several other backdrops that could range from abstract ridiculousness to something a little more song specific. I definitely want to have some hot go-go dancing girls shimmying and shaking along to the music. That is a definite necessity.

I think that this will be a fun, original video that will do justice to the song, and also be a strong performance piece that the band to be showcased in. I am excited to give it a shot!

Here are some samples from the show:



