

# Even in his youth

**NICK KHATTER**  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Kurt Cobain was one of the world's most beloved grunge rockers and manic-depressives.

You can watch the TV specials, read the books and obsess over his diaries, but nothing will bring you closer to the heart and soul of him than *Kurt Cobain About a Son*.

The film played on Sept. 19 as part of the Atlantic Film Festival. Directed by AJ Schnack, *About a Son* is an impressionistic portrait of Cobain's life.

Narrated by conversations taken from over 25 hours of recorded interviews by journalist Micheal Azerrad, this pseudo-documentary is a showcase of Cobain's reflections on his life and the world around him.

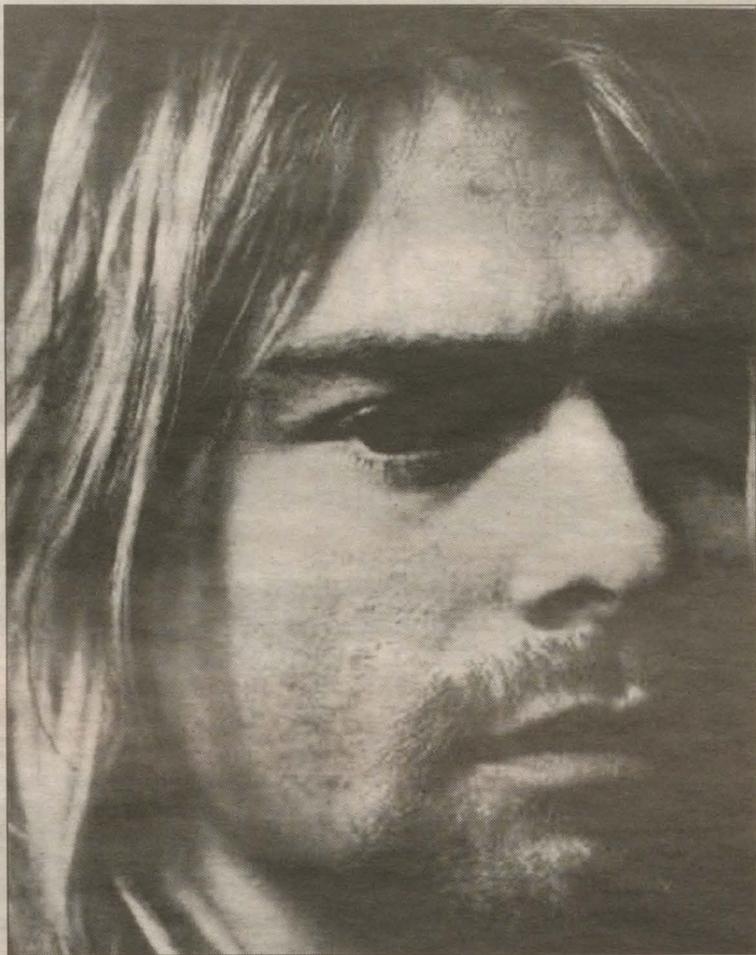
The interviews, which Azerrad held between 1992 and 1993 for his book *Come As You Are: The Story of Nirvana*, had never been heard before.

The film is not really a documentary, but rather a slideshow smeared with the feelings and reflections of a misunderstood artist and accompanied by a sound track composed according to Cobain's musical taste.

Artists like Iggy Pop, David Bowie and Arlo Guthrie play over pictures of industrial Aberdeen, flamboyantly artistic Olympia, and dreary Seattle. Death Cab For Cutie's Ben Gibbard and Nirvana producer Steve Fisk composed the rhythmic, wave-like score.

The movie starts off slowly, but perks up within the first 20 minutes with obscure animation resembling Cobain's own artwork. The film combines this animation with Cobain talking about how he felt like an alien his parents adopted.

Cobain talks about his mischievous



Kurt Cobain *About a Son* takes never been seen footage and shows Cobain's life through slide show and musical backdrop.

childhood spent throwing cans of rocks at police cars and how he liked people thinking he was gay in high school because of the conflict it presented.

In Cobain's anti-drug spiel, he speaks of how his paranoia and desire for drugs faded with the birth of his child.

When you see the picture of Cobain in his white pajamas playing

with his daughter and wife, you can't but help shed a tear.

*About a Son* is a rollercoaster of Cobain's thoughts and feelings, as he expresses his love for Courtney, bitter feelings towards his father and uncertainty for the kids of the next generation.