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The Dali Dimension - Decoding the Mind of a Genius (DVD)

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Running Time: 75 minutes including bonus material
 If you've ever associated the words crazy, weird, or just plain strange with Salvador Dali, you're not alone. The opening image of *The Dali Dimension* shows the famous painter throwing paint-filled eggs at a canvas while standing in a huge egg-shaped structure. However, this documentary proves that Dali was not only far from a crazy person; he bordered more along the lines of an eccentric genius.

The Dali Dimension contains interviews with scientists, writers, art historians and painters, just to name a few. The interviews are in few minute increments so they aren't overwhelming, showing the name and title of the person making the whole thing very organized and easy to follow. When holograms, hyper cubes, or other hard to imagine images were spoken of, diagrams were shown so that the audience could grasp the concept better.

Dali, feeling more at home with scientists than anyone, seems more of a scientist that paints rather than a painter who studies science. Freud and Einstein influenced a young Dali. Dali even once said, "Freud is my father." Grainy footage is shown of Dali explaining that at one point when he met Freud, Dali wanted him to read his scientific thesis and Freud just wanted to look at his paintings.

When Dali's paintings are shown, the time is just long enough to contemplate their meaning without being *too* long. The colors are vivid, and very clear. The topic of his famous 'soft watches' is touched upon. Where did the idea come from? The answer may surprise you, as they were certainly not a byproduct of a dream or vision in Dali's mind.

The word surrealism is synonymous with the painter. His double images may have thought to be from paranoia, but the video shows where his ideas for paintings really come from: readings, science, quantum mechanics, and the like.

Though fascinating, Dali does not come across as a particularly humble being. He says in broken English, "Every one of my paintings...everybody laughs at the moment of look for the first time. But almost after 12 years every scientific people recognize that every one of these paintings is one real prophecy."

In 1939 at the World's Fair show, surrealists accused Dali of being too much of showman and subsequently shunned him from their movement. After that, Dali turned his interest to nuclear physics and the discovery of the structure of DNA (James Watson, co-founder of the structure of DNA wanted Dali to illustrate his book) which showed in his artwork thereafter. Referring to the study of things, he says, "Everything is too specialized." His art tries to bring art, science, math, and religion together in one place.

Salvador Dali did not believe in the 'death of Dali'; he admittedly

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was frightened of death. The DVD ends abruptly with Dali thanking the people of the scientific congress from a TV at his bedside.

The extras on the DVD are just as interesting as the main feature. There are six to choose from. Three of them are of people who interacted with Dali, including a painter who created a holograph with him. The other three segments discuss things like the golden mean and antimatter.

The documentary is very informative. Vibrant colors, accurate descriptions, footage of Dali, and the ease at which the audience can follow make watching it an enjoyable experience. The music is mostly of violins, and the musicians are shown a few times, tying in the artistic themes.

Whether your love is art, science, personal documentaries, or just Salvador Dali himself, this DVD will fulfill each need with as much gusto the famous painter had for his work.

· · · · · [Christen LaFond](#), MuzikReviews.com Staff

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