

[MUSOSCRIBE: Bill Kopp's music blog: features, reviews, interviews, essays and whatnot](#)

« [Album Review: Jody Porter - Close to the Sun](#)
[Album Review: Various Artists - Good to the Last Drop](#) »

DVD Review: You Really Got Me — The Story of the Kinks

When it comes to *You Really Got Me: the Story of the Kinks*, there's good news and bad news. The good news is pretty simple: it's the **Kinks**. This British group was among the most rocking and intelligent acts of the 1960s and beyond; the Kinks were the group about which **Lillian Roxon** wrote, "The Kinks are probably the one group most admired by other musicians and certainly the one invariably held up as an example when someone is trying to prove the **Beatles** aren't all that good and that there are groups that were doing cleverer things earlier." Wordiness notwithstanding, Roxon's point is a valid one. And *You Really Got Me: the Story of the Kinks* does indeed contain a whole bunch of video clips of the band.

I'm sorry to report that here endeth the good news. This video has a number of problems; in fact the issues are so myriad that enumerating them isn't worth the time. Suffice to say that the DVD suffers from three basic problems.

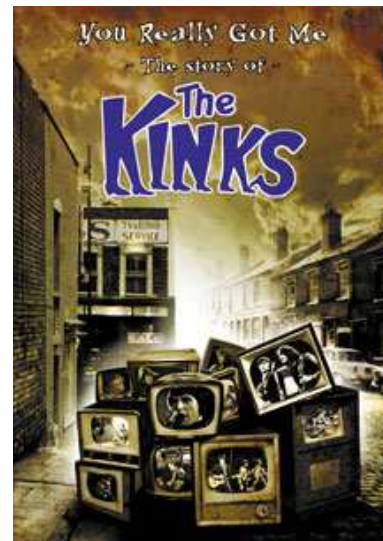
First, video quality is shoddy. Most of the clips look as if they were sourced from a worn VHS dub. Stills look like they were gathered using a web browser and several mouse right-clicks. Collectors will have some of this material in their own collections, on unofficial compilations, in better quality. The sound is dodgy and inconsistent as well.

Two, the narration is often factually wrong and presents the story out of sequence. In one part, the narrator tells us that **Mick Avory** is fired from the band. Next up: an MTV-era video of the band, clearly featuring Avory. Album releases are discussed out of order (this is no quibble: the story purports to be linear. It ain't). Album titles are mangled. Most egregiously and unforgivably of all, throughout the 88-minute runtime, the narrator insists on mispronouncing the surname of **Ray** and **Dave**. Though it's spelled **Davies**, it's properly pronounced "Davis." Anyone with more than a slight passing knowledge of the band should know this; someone attempting to make a documentary on the band has no excuse.

Three, it's pretty much a lazy effort. While there hasn't been a Kinks retrospective on the scale of the **Who's** *The Kids Are Alright*, there is a fair amount of Kinks video out there. Again, ask a collector. And while it's true that licensing issues and budgetary constraints are always an issue, it seems clear that with a bit more effort, the compilers could have crafted a more balanced portrait. Nearly half of the video clips are sourced from the Kinks video concert film *One for the Road*, and a big chunk of the remainder comes from a Japanese concert video of roughly the same vintage. So viewers get some great live concert footage of songs from throughout the kinks' career, but most of it is from two concerts in the early 80s.

The full video of "Predictable" is included (in lousy quality). Its inclusion clearly has more to do with its being available for this set than with any artistic merits or musical significance.

I could go on. The point is, until a better compilation comes along, this is worth a quick view, but the problems with *You Really Got Me: the Story of the Kinks* clearly outweigh the good points. Ray Davies can't be happy about the existence of this near-bootleg quality DVD. And that's an insult to [bootleggers](#), who often understand the artists and put together decent packages.



Follow "the_musoscribe" on  Twitter and get notified when new features, reviews and essays are published.

DISCLOSURE OF MATERIAL CONNECTION:

1

Tags: [dvd](#), [kinks](#)

This entry was posted on Wednesday, May 5th, 2010 at 4:50 am and is filed under [compilation](#), [dvd](#), [rawk](#), [review](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. You can [leave a response](#), or [trackback](#) from your own site.

4 Responses to “DVD Review: You Really Got Me — The Story of the Kinks”

1. *Greg* Says:

[May 5th, 2010 at 4:02 pm](#)

Firstly don't give me that bogus Beatles versus Kinks crap. I loved the Beatles 'cause they were the Beatles and I loved the Kinks because they were the Kinks. Apples and oranges OK! The reason no Kink DVD can ever be worth its salt is because rarely was there any high quality stuff ever shot in the early days. The Beatles had the good fortune of having good management and loads of documentation - bottom line. Personally I think the ones that get overly blown out of proportion are the Stones - whose early stuff up to around the late seventies was good - then they sold out to self caricature and hype as the greatest band and started worshipping a god called ego ~

2. *admin* Says:

[May 5th, 2010 at 4:23 pm](#)

Touchy, touchy! I'm not “giving” you that crap. I'm merely quoting the late Ms. Roxon. Apples and Oranges, agreed. My point was/is that the Kinks didn't “get their due” relative to how good they were; the Beatles, OTOH, did. {The Beatles are hands-down my favorite group, btw.}

And you're right about the Stones as well, except I'd draw the cutoff after “It's Only Rock and Roll.”

As far as the DVD, I think you (commenter Greg) let the makers of this one off too easy with your comment. Yes, source quality is dodgy, but the makers of this DVD made no effort to find the best available. They just grabbed what was easiest to get. Shameful, really, and a ripoff in the classic sense of the word.

Thanks for commenting.

3. *Norristown Joe* Says:

[May 5th, 2010 at 8:35 pm](#)

Sorry to hear that the video is not that great.

The Kinks never seem to get their just due, but that's part of what makes them the Kinks.

They are uniquely brilliant.

I can only hope and pray for a reunion tour and would settle for seeing Dave in a live show once again.

\"God Save the Kinks\"

4. *Michael O'brien* Says:

[May 5th, 2010 at 10:20 pm](#)

I think it was in Dave Davies' book Kink that he mentions Ray's pronunciation of their last name wondering why Ray at one point started pronouncing it \"Davis\".

Leave a Reply

Name (required)

Mail (will not be published) (required)

Website

Security Code:



Submit Comment

Musoscribe (aka blog.billkopp.com) is proudly powered by [WordPress](#)
[Entries \(RSS\)](#) and [Comments \(RSS\)](#).