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A lost treasure from the Jayhawks and a disappointment from the Kinks

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The Jayhawks, 1986

The Jayhawks, “The Jayhawks (aka ‘The Bunkhouse Album’)” (Lost Highway). 4 stars.

The Kinks, “You Really Got Me: The Story of the Kinks” (ABC/MVD - DVD). 2 stars.

Rarities and Reissues

The Jayhawks, “The Jayhawks (aka ‘The Bunkhouse Album’)” (Lost Highway). 4 stars.

Now here’s a real rarity destined to delight Jayhawks’ fans.

The highly-influential band's first album, which was released in 1986, has never before been available on CD. When it was initially issued there were 2,000 copies pressed on good old vinyl on Bunkhouse Records.

At last it is being made available on CD, and is being released simultaneously with a vinyl edition, both courtesy of Lost Highway Records.

Featuring founding members Mark Olsen, Gary Louris, Marc Perlman and Norm Rogers, this album was the initial alt-country salvo from a band that would help define the genre. It has a very country sound, undoubtedly influenced by artists such as the Flying Burrito Brothers. It also has a steady stream of alcohol flowing throughout it in songs like "Misery Tavern" "Six Pack on the Dashboard" and the steel-draped "The Liquor Store Came First."

The rhythms are often rollicking ("Cherry Pie") or built on a flat-top box feel ("Let the Last Night be the Longest – Lonesome Memory") and the songs are filled with clever lyrics and steady hooks, such as "Let the Critics Wonder" and the Dylan-reminiscent "King of Kings."

This is most definitely a wonderful look back at the early days of a seminal band.

[Tracks to download:](#) "King of Kings" "The Liquor Store Came First."

DVD Spotlight

The Kinks, "You Really Got Me: The Story of the Kinks" (ABC/MVD). 2 stars.

When news of this DVD initially rolled out, it triggered plenty of excitement, as the Kinks are one of the few great British bands whose history has not yet been thoroughly well documented.

Unfortunately, the actual product proves to be a disappointment. Yes there is plenty of relatively rare footage of the Kinks playing some of their best material, but a lot of the video quality is grainy and/or washed out, most of the audio is awful and the whole thing comes across as some multi-generational bootleg hand-me-down VHS tape that someone quickly transferred to a homemade DVD.

The Kinks deserve better and so do you.

If none of those shortcomings both you, then you'll still find something to like in versions of such Kinks' classics as "You Really Got Me," "Victoria," the rare "Death of a Clown," original videos for "Come Dancing" and "State of Confusion" and more, including a handful of interviews with Ray Davies and his mates.

Rating Scale: One Star (poor) to Five Stars (a classic).