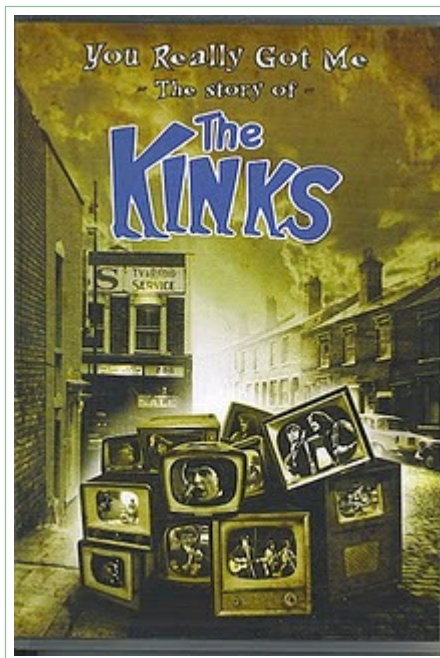


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**THE KINKS****YOU REALLY GOT ME: THE STORY OF THE KINKS**

ABC Entertainment DVD VP1300

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The Kinks weren't the most famous band to come out of the British Invasion, but few could match their longevity or output. From 1964 to their split in 1996, The Kinks released a string of hits: "You Really Got Me," "All Day and All of the Night," "Tired of Waiting on You," "Well-Respected Man," "Waterloo Sunset," "[Lola](#)," "Destroyer," "Come Dancing," "[Do it Again](#)".....

Along the way its cofounder, lead

vocalist, and chief songwriter Ray Davies also experimented freely. The band had more reincarnations than a bus load of Hindus and appeared in guises such as pop band, a hard rock lineup, a folk rock ensemble, a preservationist society, a village dance band, rock opera performers, MTV video stars, and a nostalgia act. Insofar as rock historians can tell, their "See My Friend" was the first Western pop song to incorporate sitar into the arrangement, and The Kinks also anticipated and/or inspired glam rock, punk, heavy metal, and New Wave.

*You Really Got Me* tells much of this story, though it doesn't always tell it well. The 87-minute production includes a lot of concert footage, but most of it is taken from just a handful of television appearances, especially a dynamite mid-80s nostalgia-soaked concert in Japan. While it is fun to see Ray and Dave Davies at the height of their polished power, the Japanese concert doesn't tell us much about the band when the songs being featured were fresh. Moreover, the producers are too respectful and too focused on celebrating commercial success (at the expense of artistic expression). As a result controversy such as that which led to several personnel shakeups is glossed over as, indeed, is Ray's ultimate estrangement from his brother Dave. An enduring mystery is why The Kinks were banned from entering the United States in the late Sixties. Reasons for the ban are obscure and don't look to this production to shed any new light. In similarly incomplete fashion, The Kinks' influence on musical history is stated, but seldom illustrated. Viewers are left to

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