

## Under Review – The Small Faces (MVD)

This year's rediscovery in cult pop cenacles continues to The Small Faces, an aggregation most cognoscenti associate with the Ron Wood-Ron Stewart 70s farce as opposed to this sublime Mod combo. Thankfully, this engaging documentary focuses on the original lineup which had leather-lunged Steve Marriott on vocals and barbarian-guitar and Ronnie Lane on bass and vocals and the duo writing much of the memorable material. And for our and your money, Marriott, who went on to form boogie metal behemoth Humble Pie with Peter Frampton, was always the more interesting singer. As performer, not fop, Stevie, unlike Rod, had little interest in strutting; for him, it was all about communicating. But never mind that, here's the next installment in the Under Review series, and that's all you need to know. This outfit could have you devoting yourself to a study of the Jim Croce's collected works; that's how good and clever these archivists are; but this



effort fascinates as it focuses primarily on the legacy of a band primarily remembered and celebrated for its early soul stirrer singles. There's more to this overview of the collective once looked as a serious challenger to both The Who and The Stones, but if you don't listen carefully to the contributions of Uncut Magazine's Nigel Williamson and Paulo Hewitt (also writing Marriott's biography), or the masterful reevaluation of addle-pated, psychedelic-wonder, Ogden Nut's Gone Flake, you may find yourself exiting without any of your prejudices being dispelled. So go in thinking, hearing, "What'cha Gonna Do About It," and "All or Nothing," and not, the foppish "Stay With Me."

