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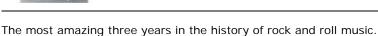
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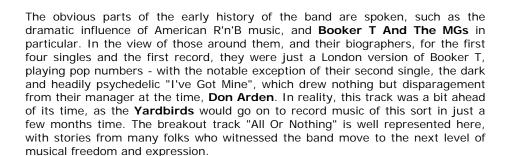
The Small Faces

Under Review: An Independent Critical Analysis Chrome Dreams

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Unlike most rock and roll DVDs these days, The Small Faces: Under Review is more a documentary approach to the history of the group, and a critical analysis of their singles and albums. From "What Cha Gonna Do About It?", with its riff stolen discretely from Solomon Burke to the wickedly rollicking "The Universal", this brief history of one of the finest of the mod scene's bands is informative and highly entertaining. It seems from the very second that Steve Marriott and Ronnie Lane formed The Small Faces with Kenny Jones and Jimmy Winston that there was an extraordinary spark that aimed the band toward stardom, not only in the East End of London, but across the rock'n'roll world. The band had its own unique style, pulled from various musical and social sources, and the amazingly mature and growly voice of Steve Marriott.



The psychedelic year is freely explored with the amazing "Here Comes The Nice" and the oft-misunderstood "Itchycoo Park". The critics view of the band's swing from R'N'B pop group to hippy psychedelic group is enlightening, and in retrospect sheds a bit of light on the other bands that were happening at the time. The glory of "Tin Soldier" is brought out and lit up in a way that most listeners wouldn't really get to on their own. Let's not forget the maniacal absurdity of "Lazy Sunday" or the obscure thoughts behind the band's final single, "The Universal".

As well as revealing some insightful stories about the band, the DVD shows some amazing archival footage of the band performing, including an amazing version of "What Cha Gonna Do About It?" from Studio Hamburg when the band was only a year into their career. Another of the highlights of the DVD is listening to Keith Altham, NME journalist and editor from 1963 to 1971, talk about the various characters on the mod scene, from the managers to the artists. Also included on the DVD is "The Hardest Small Faces Quiz In The World Ever", as well as an















exhaustive discography featuring singles, albums, DVDs, guest appearances, and Steve Marriott's solo recordings.

-Embo Blake

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