

# THE SUN HERALD

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## "Under Review," Syd Barrett

(ChromeDreams/MVD, \*\*\*)

This release details the brief, shining musical career and subsequent mental breakdown of the founder of Pink Floyd. Barrett composed their early songs, including the breakout hit, "See Emily Play."

He fronted the band during their rise to the top of the English psychedelic scene, which included their debut album, "Pink Floyd." The combination of twisted pop tunes and extended, improvisational "soundscapes" was lauded by fans and critics.

Unfortunately, Barrett began to unravel during a subsequent U.S. tour, and his behavior had become so erratic by the end of 1967 that he was replaced by David Gilmour. The initial plan for Syd to continue as an off-road writer/producer, a la Brian Wilson/Beach Boys, imploded quickly.

His first solo album, "The Madcap Laughs," was critically acclaimed but marginally successful, though it later gained notoriety when punk rockers discovered it. They loved an album with a starkly under-produced sound in an era when recording was becoming more technically perfect. Less than a year later, his second solo project, "Barrett," produced by David Gilmour, was released. It was a slicker production, but was even less successful.

By **RICKY FLAKE**