

Queen

★★★★

Classic Albums: A Night At The Opera TAGLEVISION

Love rock mythology and believe some secrets should be left in the can? This DVD is not for you.

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If you want to know, metaphorically, what Roger Taylor had for breakfast the day 39 was

recorded, hop on board, for this is an extremely scenic ride. This is your full soup to nuts on one of pomp's greatest. To see producer Roy Thomas Baker fiddling with the faders to isolate Brian May, Freddie Mercury and Taylor's remarkable harmonies is a particular joy. Best, however, is the footage of You're My Best Friend: Queen at their understated finest, with everything perfectly in right measure. With exemplary

attention to detail, it is left as usual for Taylor and May to ruminate at length about their beloved institution. Bohemian Rhapsody is given full credence and the whole thing leaves you reeling as to how they actually got away with it.

Daryl Easlea

Talmage Farlow

★★★★

A Film By Lorenzo DeStefano MVD

Intimate, made-for-TV film about the late, lauded, US jazz guitarist.

It took years for DeStefano to persuade the lanky man with the big hands and shy smile to appear in this '80s TV account of his 1958 disappearance from the New York jazz scene and the comeback show with which the gentle, affectionate, short film ends. A sign-painter by trade, guitarist by hobby, Farlow was discovered in his native North Carolina, then fêted by the likes of Charlie

Mingus and Artie Shaw. He was at the top of his game, with his own band in Manhattan, when he quit and went back to sign-painting. This finds him living the simple life in a small seaside town in New Jersey, where DeStefano seems happier to hang with him than to dig too deeply into his psyche. Farlow's wife's mention of Talmage's perfectionism and (despite the smile) despondency is as intrusive as it gets.

Sylvie Simmons



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