

## Classic Rock Bob

Musings about music

### Harry Nilsson and Ringo Starr Get to “The Point”

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**Doesn't this look like the type of guy that YOU would like to party with???**

Gifted singer/songwriter. Former bank clerk. Beatles partying pal (who else would have encouraged a drunk **John Lennon** to wear a Kotex on his forehead?). Substance abuser. Shitty husband and father/Great husband and father. Gun control advocate. Stage fright sufferer. During his 52 years on this planet, **Harry Nilsson** was all of these things and more.

And while ironically, he penned big hits for other acts (“One” for **Three Dog Night**, “Cuddly Toy” for the **Monkees**), he had his greatest success as a performer with songs written by others (**Fred Neil’s** “Everybody’s Talkin’” from *Midnight Cowboy* and “Without You” by **Badfinger’s Pete Ham and Tom Evans**).

Nilsson’s fascinating life and career were recently the subject of the great documentary, [Who is Harry Nilsson \(And Why Is Everybody Talkin’ About Him\)?](#)



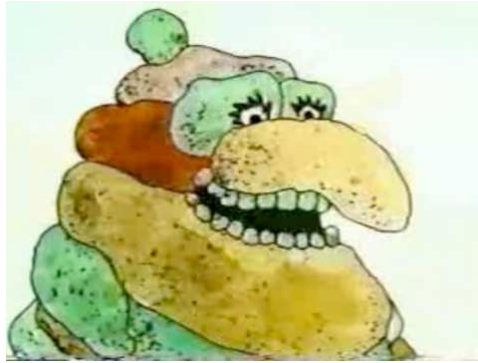
But I was very excited to see that my favorite Nilsson project, the 1971 animated feature film, [The Point](#), has come out in a “Definitive Collector’s Edition,” looking great and loaded with bonus materials and interviews.

The psychedelic fable—with plenty to teach both kids and adults—is based on a concept by Nilsson, who also wrote and sings the songs (including “Think About Your Troubles” and the insanely joyful “Me and My

Arrow").

It's about a little boy, **Oblio**, who was born with a round head in a village full of pointy-headed residents. When his "disfigurement" gets him the bum's rush outta town, he and his blue dog Arrow take a trip through the Pointless Forest before deciding to return home.

Allegories abound in this Hero's Quest straight out of **Joseph Campbell**, with plenty of pithy posturings on nepotism, enforcing unpopular laws, weak political leaders, business ethics, parental disconnect, legal manipulation, mob mentality, and citizen "protection."



**Oblio and Arrow encounter a "very stoned" Rockman, who dispenses advice with a jazz hipster's patois.**

Ultimately, Oblio discovers...aw, hell, I'm not gonna ruin it for you. Just get the damn thing. You don't even have to be high to watch it. Though, apparently, my parents and their friends The Gregos were during one of its early broadcasts, during which a very young Classic Rock Bob apparently watched with awe.

The unsung hero of *The Point*, though, is director/ animator **Fred Wolf**, interviewed in the bonus features. In addition to wrangling a flaky Nilsson and working with multiple script revisions, he hand-drew the 28,000 drawings over 34 weeks which comprise the entire film. Fred Wolf...give that man an Ace Bandage Lifetime Achievement Award!

**Ringo Starr** is a great narrator, years before he put on that train conductor's hat. And in a bit of trivia, **Mike Lookinland** is the voice of Oblio. He would later go on to break hearts (and expensive antiques) as Bobby Brady in "The Brady Bunch."

Mom always said not to play ball in the house.



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