

**The Point: Definitive Collector's Edition**

Although such hit recordings as "Everybody's Talkin'," "Without You," "Coconut," "One," "I Guess the Lord Must Be in New York City" and "Jump Into the Fire" are far more recognizable today than his name, Harry Nilsson's musical legacy continues to grow. MVD Visual has re-released his perfectly gift-able animated feature, "**The Point**," which, in 1971, reputedly became the first animated special to receive a prime-time broadcast in the U.S. It would go on to produce a popular soundtrack album and stage musical. The original ABC presentation featured the narration of Dustin Hoffman, as a father telling his son the story as a bedtime story, but a contract clause caused Nilsson's buddy, Ringo Starr, to be hired to re-record the narrative. As the story goes, a little round-headed boy named Oblio, who is required a pointed hat to conform with the intolerant residents of his home town, where everyone else's head comes to a point. As punishment for beating a count's son in a game of Triangle Toss, Oblio and his dog Arrow are banished to the Pointless Forest. It is here that the boy discovers that everything has a point, including him, and he's ready to return to the Land of Point to teach his former neighbors and friends the same thing. The story was accompanied by the animation of director Fred Wolf. Anyone aware of the singer-songwriter's favorite recreational pastimes in the late-1960s and 1970s might assume that "The Point" is as psychedelic as "The Yellow Submarine" and as rebellious as "Hair." Fact is, though, it's perfectly acceptable as family entertainment. The biggest hit to derive from the musical was "Me and My Arrow," but the rest of the soundtrack is fun, as well. The MVD release adds 25 minutes of bonus features, including "Who Is Harry Nilsson?," "Pitching the Point," "Making the Point" and "Legacy of the Point." Curious parents may also want to check out the 2010 bio-doc, "Who Is Harry Nilsson (And Why Is Everybody Talkin' About Him)?"

– Gary Dretzka

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