

HARRY NILSSON'S 'THE POINT' RELEASED ON DVD WITH HELP FROM RINGO STARR

by Dave Swanson 2 weeks ago



MVD

Harry Nilsson was one of a kind. Ace songwriter, amazing singer and outrageous drinking comrade to the stars are just a few of the fine things on his resume. In 1971, he recorded an album called 'The Point,' which accompanied an animated film of the same name. Just in time for the holidays, MVD has just released the 'Definitive Collector's Edition' of 'The Point.' The film has been remastered and features 25 minutes of bonus material.

'The Point' told the story of Oblio, a round headed boy living in the land of Point, a place where everybody and everything has "a point." Oblio wears a pointed hat to conceal his "pointless" existence. Oblio and his dog Arrow are banished to the Pointless Forest. The film originally aired on ABC television in February of 1971 and was originally narrated by Dustin Hoffman. Due to contractual issues, Hoffman's narration was missing from future airings. For home video release, the narration was redone by a close friend of Nilsson, Ringo Starr.

According to Nilsson, the idea for the film sprang forth from one of his experiences with LSD. A quote on his his official website reads: "I was on acid and I looked at the trees and I realized that they all came to points, and the little branches came to points, and the houses came to point. I thought, 'Oh! Everything has a point, and if it doesn't, then there's a point to it.'"

The animated film was directed by Academy Award-winner Fred Wolf, and includes songs written and sung by Grammy Award-winner Nilsson. Included in the bonus material is the short film 'Who Is Harry Nilsson?,' as well as short features titled 'Pitching the Point,' 'Making the Point' and 'Legacy Of The Point'

The film itself is just one side of the story, as the music is equally the star here thanks to songs like 'Me And My Arrow' and 'Are You Sleeping?' Though aimed at children, adults will certainly get as much, if not more, from a viewing than the youngsters. In 1975, 'The Point'

went on to become a stage production, with the original London cast including Davy Jones and Micky Dolenz, one of Nilsson's closest friends.