

Leonard Cohen is another Canadian singer-songwriter of mythic proportions. For the most part, the Montreal native has avoided the glare of the media spotlight, letting his music and poetry speak for him. This hasn't prevented his admirers from writing endless odes to his art and prodding him to contribute to bio-docs and concert films. The latest is MVD Visuals' "Leonard Cohen: The Complete Review," which appears to be a merger of two previous "Under Review" discs, which divide his career roughly in half. Now 78, Cohen's journey began well before he was recognized for his musical talent in 1967, with "Songs of Leonard Cohen." By then, he had already been recognized as a significant poet in Canada, written two novels, been the subject of a documentary, purchased a home on Hydra and was a fringe player in Andy Warhol's Factory scene. Far from being a hippie or Dylan acolyte, his achingly romantic music was embraced by post-folkies, college students and such emerging hit-makers as Judy Collins. "**Leonard Cohen: The Complete Review**" is broken roughly in half, at the point of his ill-fated collaboration with Phil Spector, "Death of a Lady's Man." His phoenix-like resurgence in the 1980s is fully covered on the second disc. The set is informed by the opinions of learned critics and producers and includes snippets of performance clips and other archival material. If you've dug Cohen from the get-go or discovered him yesterday, this is a DVD to savor.

By Gary Dretzka

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