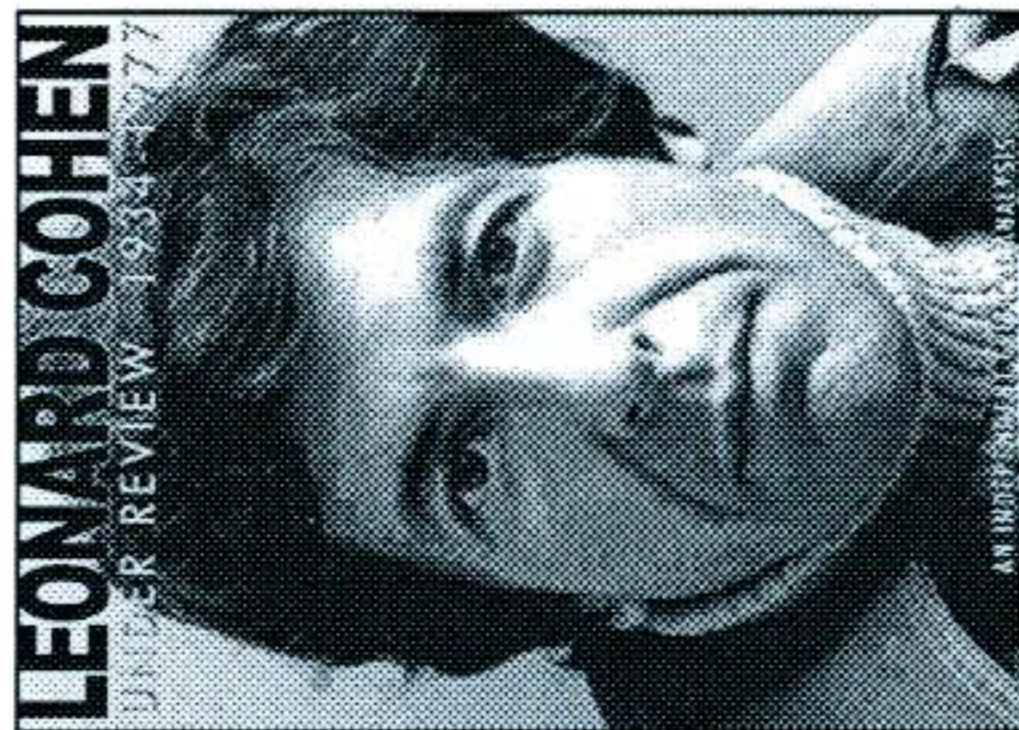


= DVD Rack =



Leonard Cohen is perhaps one of the greatest songwriters of the past 50 years despite having never enjoyed a great commercial success in the United States. He has a definitively brilliant ability to blend stunningly intuitive and moving, introspective poetry with melody and song. In the documentary "Leonard Cohen Under Review: 1934-1977," a group of musical professionals, which include former producers and critics, analyze and present insight into his work, his life and his effect on listeners over the past 41 years.

Cohen was born in Montreal, Canada in 1934 to a prominent Jewish family and was trained in classical guitar, which is what gives him a portion of his unique sound. After graduating college, Cohen began his career when his first collation of poems was published. He followed his poetry with two novels that were published in Canada. After his marginal literary success, Cohen decided to pursue a career as a singer/songwriter.

He began at the famous Chelsea Hotel in New York City, befriending notable icons like Lou Reed, The Velvet Underground and Andy Warhol. His career broke out after his short stay in the hotel. Cohen has over 10 albums under his belt and his songs have appeared in several films, including "Natural Born Killers."

The documentary itself is a bountiful source of information on the under-represented artist. Even though it can be a little slow at times, the entire film is made through a series of interviews and excerpts from Cohen's songs, novels and poetry. It is a proud testament to an artist whose stunning vision and sound left its mark.

Leonard Cohen: Under Review 1934-1977

By Andrew S. Lay
Hornet Editor in Chief



What could an unauthorized documentary film possibly tell you about one of today's most popular bands? Not very much, as is apparent when you watch "Leaving Las Vegas," a film that is supposedly about The Killers.

The first half of the DVD is more about the Vegas music scene and the lack of venues for small bands to play. Friends, mentors and former band mates of The Killers' drummer Ronnie Vannucci are a majority of the people that are interviewed in the DVD. The stories they tell are moderately interesting, but are more about their relationships to Vannucci than the actual band.

The only part of the early portion of the DVD that is about the band is a story from Vannucci's former professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and how The Killers would break onto the campus at night and rehearse until the early morning.

Interviews with The Killers are scattered throughout the film, but it is all stock footage taken from MTV and the BBC. Since the movie is about a band and their music (or is supposed to be), it would seem that some of the bands work would be featured. But this is not the case.

Music is played, but all of it by bands that no one has ever heard of, do not care about and are not even doing covers of the band's more popular songs.

Overall, this has to be one of the worst band DVDs ever compiled, even if it is just an "Unauthorised Documentary" (that's how it's actually spelled on the cover). Killers fans may find a little information tucked away, but this DVD is not worth the money.

The Killers: Leaving Las Vegas

By Jeremiah Magan
Hornet Managing Editor