



DVD

Morrissey: From Where He Came To Where He Went – With And Without The Smiths

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This double DVD set features two documentaries about The Smiths and Morrissey.

The first, *Morrissey — The Jewel In The Crown*, examines Mozzer's solo career from his 1989 *Viva Hate* debut to 2004's *You Are The Quarry*. Unfortunately, as the film hasn't been authorized by Morrissey or his management, it's completely free of his music.

The result is a film that only contains boring, stupid jingle music and interviews. Morrissey doesn't appear in the film (save for a short television interview segment at the end), but producer Stephen Street (*Viva Hate*), Factory Records head Tony Wilson, guitarist Vinni Reilly and journalists Stuart Maconie, Paul Morley and John Robb do.

The most interesting bit is the continuing argument between Street and Reilly about who really wrote the music on *Viva Hate*. Street claims he did, while Reilly says Street's demos were so horrible that he was forced to fix everything in the studio, but didn't get any credit on the album. The documentary descends into extremely boring territory after

that.

The Smiths — Under Review disc is better, since it chronicles The Smiths' career and actually includes the band's music and videos.

This documentary does an excellent job of examining the Mancunian four-piece's career and their continued importance to modern pop music. All the interview subjects from the first half of the package are present in the second, and it's much more enjoyable to watch.

Smiths and Mozzer fanatics will probably eat this for breakfast. Unfortunately, the package is presented so that anyone else who might be curious about Morrissey or The Smiths may be scared away by the time they actually get to the meat and potatoes of why the dour Englishman has been so important to modern music.