

# dagger

## The Velvet Underground: Under Review (Sexy Intellectual)

A bit disappointing considering that prominently featured drummer Mo Tucker casts precious little insight on the band's inner workings other than that she liked the songs and that the group reached its peak aided by the avant-garde contributions of viola player John Cale (who does not appear to comment). Well, duh! Replacement Velvet Doug Yule makes a few tentative observations (he says Lou Reed made fun of him for having no idea what Yule was singing about when he took lead vocal duty on "Candy Says"), but this package comes off as somewhat cursory despite a smattering of lively performance footage. One would have thought there would be more film clips available given band mentor Andy Warhol's obsessive cameraman proclivities. Too much commentary by nobodies and hangers-on and not enough time spent getting to the root of main man Lou Reed (who also does not appear. All the hypotheses posited seem pedestrian, inadequate or self-serving). Interesting to note that the group continually labored to come up with a hit single, but there's not much here that will prove enlightening to VU connoisseurs. And I can't imagine anyone else giving it much of a shot. (John Chandler)