

DVD review

'Kate Bush Under Review'

In stores June 6th

Kate Bush is an exceptionally reclusive artist. She says it's not deliberate but more evidence over the years says it is. A child genius on piano, Pink Floyd's help and encouragement got her heard at EMI and ultimately tied to them for her entire working life. As a teenager she expressed concerns and disgust with fame and rarely comes out to speak. She rarely produces an album – eight in 28 years. Bush did a single concert tour, but has never come to North America to do publicity, according to EMI, because she fears flying. All of which is a shame because Bush has established herself as a superb singer and great artist. She was always first to jump on the technical bandwagon, using electronics long before others. Electronics companies send their new wares to her before most other people for preview, and were put to inventive use in her magical music. Bush studied under avant garde dance and mime legend Lindsay Kemp whose influence is seen in her videos, almost all of which utilize modern dance. In some she wears the neck brace microphone, mistakenly believed to be a Madonna first. But Bush invented it in order to give herself freedom to move onstage. All by way of saying that Bush is an enigma, but she's also an important artist who should be studied. But she's not talking anymore. So Sexy Intellectual Productions has crafted a documentary using guerilla footage, obscure interviews and a gallery of photos, alongside commentary by a panel of experts, in a search for the core of her music. The disc contains snippets from her best known songs – 'Woman's Work', 'Wow', 'Cloudbuster', 'Running Up That Hill', 'Wuthering Heights' and 'Army Dreamers'. Her prodigious talent is a marvel, and this DVD reminds us why she is of major importance in the history of contemporary music.

- Anne Brodie