



## FEATURES

- ⊖ Paul Gambaccini Remembers
- ⊖ Contributor Biographies
- ⊖ "The Hardest Kate Bush Interactive Quiz In The World Ever"

## Kate Bush: Under Review

By Shawn McLoughlin

### Disc Details:

Video:	<b>Full frame 1.33:1</b>
Anamorphic:	<b>No</b>
Audio:	<b>• English (2.0)</b>
Subtitles:	<b>None</b>
Runtime:	<b>87 minutes</b>
Rating:	<b>N/R</b>
Release Date:	<b>Unknown</b>
Production Year:	<b>2006</b>
Director:	<b>N/A</b>
Released by :	<b>Sexy Intellectual</b>
Region:	<b>0 NTSC</b>

# RATING



[Kate Bush - Under Review](#)

Kate Bush

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## QUOTES

"Kate Bush is, both musically personally, an anomaly. ... Kate Bush, by all rights should NEVER have been popular, and yet she is considered one of the most influential women in music history."

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Kate Bush is, both musically and personally, an anomaly. She wasn't the most conventionally beautiful woman, and she didn't sound at all like a pop star. But in 1978, a 19-year-old unknown Kate released two



full-length studio albums and had a #1 hit single in the U.K. with a song inspired by the Emily Brontë novel *Wuthering Heights*, published 131 years prior. The following year she went on a European tour and, despite actively recording for many years prior, never toured again. Kate Bush, by all rights, should NEVER have been popular, and yet she is considered one of the most influential women in music history.

Now, nearly 30 years after her debut, her career can be appropriately analyzed. As the latest part of the **Under Review** series of discs (see also our coverage of their [Queen](#) and [Syd Barrett](#)) we get just that. It's important to understand this "analysis" as what it is. This is not a biography. This isn't a gushing critique made to pander to fans. This is critical, and the participants have little problem pointing out moments that aren't quite so bright in Kate's history. Anyone new to Kate need not start here. The film takes for granted that you have already heard these albums and only provides narration to bridge the continuity of discussion from one album to the next.



appreciation for Kate, he easily expresses why he likes certain tracks more than others. He goes into great detail about attributes of her music that others would easily overlook or believe to be just quirks. Of all things, he is best at providing great "industry" input; explaining his theories on why certain songs had no potential to be hits, and what made for great pop records. Anyone who can take a 45 sleeve and break down why the image

bright in Kate's history."

"You get no full songs, videos or performances on this feature. What you do get is a above average examination of work – exactly what this disc is out to give you

Kate Bush is very British, and her popular impact was best felt in the U.K. It comes as no surprise then that the speakers on this DVD are British as well. Paul Gambaccini is probably the heaviest contributor. He lived through the era working at Radio 1, and with his enormous amassed-through-experience musical brain he is easily the most entertaining and impressive of the group. Although he appears a bit biased in his

on it is significant to the song (in this case, it's "Army Dreamers") using multiple examples and strong reasoning obviously knows their stuff. This analysis is fantastic based on his inclusion alone. So impressive and passionate is he that I would look at any other releases that he might be on.

The other presenters are interesting for a variety of different reasons. Lucy O'Brien is fantastic for providing input from a woman's perspective. Her insight is particularly welcome as we get to Kate's later albums like **The Sensual World** and, her most recent, **Aerial**, which are very feminine and represent both Kate's maturity as a woman just as much as her maturity as a musician. This documentary



never directly focuses on the inspiration on women's music that Kate has had. But echoes of Kate can be heard on musicians ranging from Paula Cole and Sarah McLachlan to Tori Amos, and was an obvious inspiration on *my* inspiration, [Milla Jovovich](#). Thus, hearing analysis from a woman isn't only appreciated, it's vital to get a rounded understanding.

That's not to say there aren't a few oversights that fans will notice with glowing clarity. The chapter list, which breaks apart the feature by album, incorrectly labels the album **Never For Ever** as Never Forever. During the discussion of the single *Running Up That Hill (A Deal with God)* the video they play appears to be (although it isn't labeled as such) a live version performed with David Gilmour for Amnesty International (from **The Secret Policeman's Third Ball**). The Christmas single *December Will Be Magic Again* is completely glossed over without comment. Not all the singles on **The Red Shoes** are discussed, and the film follow up made from that album, **The Line, The Cross And The Curve**, is mentioned, and even discussed – but isn't mentioned by name.



This might all sound like nitpicking by a Kate Bush fan, and you would be right. Still, I think that Kate Bush fans are the target market for this documentary so I feel that my nitpicking is all the more warranted. If you are going to spend 90 minutes talking about eight albums, I think that you should be able to cover a few album tracks or b-sides. Sadly, this documentary doesn't, and that is disappointing.

However, the feature is very efficient, and if you enjoy this type of presentation, you will find a lot to love here. Lots of music video clips and lots of song clips help illustrate the points that the contributors make. But it is being used to illustrate *their* points and people going in should note this. You get no full songs, videos or performances on this feature. What you do get is an above average examination of her work – exactly what this disc set out to give you.

### Presentation

The video here is nothing special. It's full frame, which is how it was shot, how most of the videos were shot, and how the concert footage was shot. They obviously didn't tweak any of the older footage to make it look remarkably new. But this is a documentary, and the footage of the speakers looks perfectly fine. The sound mix is 2.0, which is also how the original videos were arranged, and it works well. This isn't a blockbuster film, and this feature looks perfectly fine for what it is. There are no subtitles included, which is upsetting, but I imagine that with the large amount of lyrics and this documentary being "unauthorized" they wouldn't be allowed to reprint them.

### Extras



*Paul Gambaccini Remembers* – (3:06) Paul Gambaccini, for those who don't already know, was a host and disc jockey for various programs on BBC Radio 1 which is quite probably the most influential radio station that broadcasts over the U.K. similar to our KROQ or, at one time, [CKLW](#). Here Gambaccini recollects two different stories about Kate. It is obvious that he is quite fond of her, and his eyes glow with nostalgia as he delivers his stories. This is the only real video extra for the program, and while it is welcome and worthy of being included, it comes off as odd, because it feels as though it could easily be edited into the feature. Still, if you are going to rent or purchase this DVD, you will want to check out this feature.

*Contributor Biographies* - Relatively self-explanatory, this feature is five text biographies of the major participants in the feature; Paul Gambaccini, Lucy O'Brien, Morris Pert, Phil Sutcliffe and Nigel Williamson. These are very short, but give you a decent background to their qualifications.

*"The Hardest Kate Bush Interactive Quiz In The World Ever"* – Seemingly a standard feature amongst the **Under Review** series, this quiz covers 25 questions about all of the eras of Kate's history. Personally, I scored 23 on my first time through, so I wouldn't consider it especially hard. However, I know a lot about Kate Bush and I imagine that newcomers might feel like the kid that was stoned during his SATs. Relatively few of these questions could be answered correctly after viewing the feature, so you pretty much need to know your stuff. Answers are provided if you get stumped, but they can't be viewed individually.

### The Bottom Line

**Kate Bush: Under Review** is regrettably the only Kate DVD in existence. It isn't regrettable because this is a bad disc, but it is regrettable because this really isn't the best place to start. Younger music fans who are interested in finding out who this Kate Bush woman is and



what she's all about would be better served picking up a few of her albums (I would say, **The Kick Inside**, **The Dreaming**, and **Hounds of Love**). Kate Bush fans will be interested, and they will be rewarded with a mostly thorough analysis of her entire career from the '70s to today. Hopefully soon someone will release a video collection to which this would be an awesome companion piece. As it stands though, this is a really solid documentary for a really limited audience. I recommend it for fans of Kate, British music from the '70s and '80s and female vocalists, but if you are not REALLY into this scene, **Under Review** isn't likely to hold your attention.

*Note: The distributor for this disc has noted that this is not the final edit of the feature that will be on the retail release. I was not expressed what changes will be made, but this review may make mention of footage not included in the final product.*



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