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Kate Bush – Under Review

Picture: C+ Sound: C+
Extras: C Documentary: B

The **Under Review** series of music documentaries is so amazing, that no less than four critics on this site are covering each release. The installment on **Kate Bush** (2006) was so impressive that I had to take it on myself. Loaded with interviews, Music Videos, other performances by Kate and an album-by-album look at her career to this year so thorough that the 90 minutes is always interesting and rich, Bush has not received the attention she deserved in the U.S. so it is no wonder this was made in the U.K.

Early on, out of nowhere, she debated with her first record label (EMI)



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which songs of hers to put out as singles. When she picked *Wuthering Heights* and it was a huge hit, it was an early artistic victory for her and the label realized she knew more about what she was talking about than they expected. Even Pat Benatar, at sister label Chrysalis, did a remarkable cover of that hit early on. But Kate was on her way to being more than just a one hit wonder.

Eventually by the 1980s, she had worked herself up to such complex artistic heights that *Cloudbursting* became a huge event single and Music Video on MTV as she reached the peak of her relationship with EMI. Soon, she was at rival Columbia Records/Sony Music and both **The Sensual World** and **The Red Shoes** became big event album releases. Like Stanley Kubrick, she too likes to live out of the public eye and increasingly takes longer to release a new album, but she is a major success on her own terms extending to the visual arts and this look at her career is very well rounded. That makes this another ace release in the **Under Review** series.

The 1.33 X 1 image is PAL-originated and some slight ghosting here and there is an issue, but with the great wealth of material and the variant nature of documentaries anyhow, such flaws are not as distracting. The Dolby Digital 2.0 Stereo is simple and has no surrounds, while it reminded this critic that much of Bush's catalog needs and deserves to be issued in audiophile format versions like SACD and DVD-Audio. Extras include the toughest quiz ever made on Bush to date and additional interview footage with Paul Gambaccini.

- Nicholas Sheffo

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