

TWO B's: KATE BUSH AND DAVID BOWIE

Reviews By Philip Nutman



KATE BUSH: UNDER REVIEW 90 mins MVD

Back in 1978, when EMI Records unleashed Kate Bush on an unsuspecting public, every hormonally-charged teenage boy in Great Britain suddenly fell in lust with Kate's Bush. Well, that was the schoolboy joke, anyway—we all wanted to check out Kate's "bush," which was probably a retarded adolescent way of trying to figure out who this weird chick was. She wasn't a hippie, but she had an Earth Mother quality that was antithetical to the whole punk Souxsie/Jordan/Sue Cat Woman look and feel of contemporary female rock chicks. And she radiated more sexual promise than Stevie Nicks ever could. Kate was hot. Kate was weird—which probably made her hotter. Those lips, those eyes...that weird voice and that weird song ("Wuthering Heights"). She was unlike any female performer we'd seen. And today, she remains unlike any other female singer/performer, period.

KATE BUSH: UNDER REVIEW is another entry in the UNDER REVIEW series from British-based Sexy Intellectual and the ChromeDreams production company whose work we previously reviewed in Issue # 1 (See Jason Quinn's reviews of <u>The Velvet Underground</u> and <u>Captain Beefheart</u> here). That company, distributed in the US by MVD, are creating some of the most interesting direct to DVD rockumentaries available (see Bowie and Led Zeppelin below). While their work is very hit or miss, KATE BUSH rates as a terrific piece that comes closer than any previous attempt at explaining the Bush enigma.

And Kate Bush is an enigma, as any diehard fan knows. Kate is a study in contrasts: a flamboyant performer who avoids publicity like the plague; an artist who refuses to

participate on the corporate treadmill and make albums on a regular schedule (13 years between albums!)...the list could go on. With informed commentary from Mojo contributor Phil Sutcliffe (who was a senior writer at Sounds when Bush was initially active) and Radio DJ/musicologist Paul Gambaccini, to mention but two of the contributors, a lot of lively insights can be gleaned here. Further comments by author and journalist Nigel Williamson (the Neil Young study, JOURNEY THROUGH THE PAST) and Lucy O' Brien (SHE BOP: THE DEFINITIVE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN IN ROCK) are interesting, but don't add up to more than opinions. The only disappointment is that there's not enough interview time with orchestral composer and highly regarded session percussionist Morris Pert who worked extensively with Bush on her debut album, THE KICK INSIDE and contributed to four others.

If you think you know Kate Bush, this DVD will open your eyes. And if you don't know her work, then this is a great place to start.

• <u>\$18.95 at Amazon</u>