

Walford Gazette

Vol. 14, Issue 2 (No. 54)

The Newspaper for EastEnders Fans



Best of British Music DVDs

BY LARRY JAFFEE

Any discussion of the best rock music coming out of Britain since the late 1970s usually doesn't leave out The Smiths and Kate Bush. These two 90-minute DVD documentaries, both titled *Under Review, An Independent Critical Analysis* (from video label/distributor MVD), are career retrospectives of both essential artists.

Both releases cover chronologically the full story and music of The Smiths (a quartet from Manchester) and Kate Bush, featuring rare musical performances, videos, TV appearances, interviews, and expert comment and review from panels of experts, including critics and various associates of the musicians.

The Smiths' career was relatively short-lived, as the fruitful songwriting partnership between lead singer Morrissey and guitarist Johnny Marr unravelled by 1987. But their prolific output during those five years rarely took a misstep, and neither's solo career has matched the band's magic.

Like The Smiths, Kate Bush

was fairly young when she first hit the music scene. A satisfying debut, *The Kick Inside* (1978), revealed an abundance of talent; arguably the most unique female artist ever.

But Kate always has disdained the music industry's corporate machinations, although she has recorded only for EMI her entire career. And since the 1980s she has been a studio hermit, recording only sporadically. But when her albums get released, such as last year's *Aerial*, after a 12-year break, they don't disappoint. This Kate Bush DVD is worth it alone for the inclusion of the rarely seen music video for "Breathing," her take on life from inside the womb.

Both DVDs feature fun interactive trivia quizzes. A must for fans.