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ALBUMS

The Smiths Under Review

MVD

A cheap but knowledgeable collection of talking heads pull apart Morrissey, Marr and the 'other two or three'.

Sporting an aesthetic normally reserved for timeshare promo's, MVD's critical analysis of the Smiths will not score points on presentation with it's painfully amateur titles and insistence on filming those who knew the band in a series of badly-lit, ugly locations; Paul Morley for once is worth watching for the never-ending stream of office employees smoking, yawning and spitting in the background. Also, adopting the same voiceover man from your school sex-ed video gives it a laborious tone which sits ill at ease with the jocular conversation of it's contributors.

Petty niggles aside though, and this offers a fairly comprehensive history of the band, providing newbie's with an insight into the inner-workings of a great band with enough trivia thrown in for the anoraks amongst you. With producers of the band, roadies and serial offenders such as the aforementioned Morley and walking parody Tony Wilson on hand to offer varying degrees of interest, it is only really the absence of the band that is lacking; hearing sometimes member Craig Gannon talk of backstage differences with Marr is frustrating without getting the fuller picture, and no-end of old Morrissey VT would be as good as seeing the new swollen version wax lyrical on the band that launched him.



FESTMALS06

All in all The Smiths, Under Review is exactly that, anyone expecting the gloss of other band DVD's will be disappointed, however the integrity of the film is hard to argue with as is it's tone, and for this reason it cannot be faulted.

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By Ross Breadmore

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