



Shared Darkness
A Communal Life in Film and DVD, Examined



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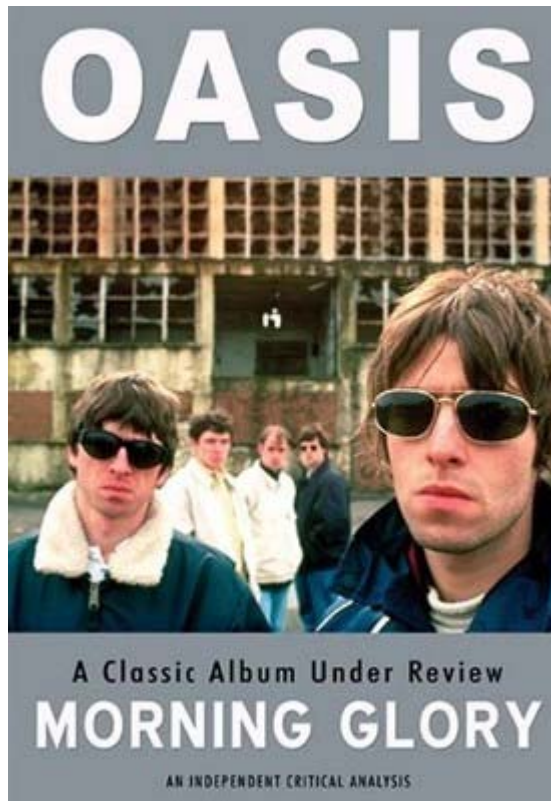
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Under Review: Oasis



This entry was posted on 3/13/2007 6:37 AM and is filed under [DVD Reviews](#).



Along with concert documentaries, there's a burgeoning sub-genre of musical biographies making their way to DVD these days, and while such titles often serve chiefly as peppy sermons for a converted choir, they're also handy primers for

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abiding music fans who perhaps want to fill in a few gaps in their own musical history. Latest up of this bunch is **another entry in Sexy Intellectual and MVD's superlative *Under Review* series, *Oasis: Morning Glory*.**

A look at the sophomore album, (*What's the Story*) *Morning Glory?*, of Brit pop bad boys Noel and Liam Gallagher, and their group Oasis, this title rockets viewers back to October of 1995. And it's **a very compelling ride — one in which merely obsequious praise isn't doled out just to stoke the self-satisfied opinions of sycophantic yet uninformed fans.**

No, rather this is a fairly brutal and honest reassessment this best-selling powerhouse of a record, with the good getting a shared amount of talk time with the bad (album opener "Roll with It!" is derided as atrocious, for instance, and some other tunes and choices are derided as mawkish and baffling). **Full of bombastic electric guitar feedback as well as a certain pensive languor,** (*What's the Story*) *Morning Glory?* mixed the group's more obvious inspirations (the Beatles, Slade) with wiggly, wah-wah guitar riffs, some Bowie-era glam rock, wall-of-sound theatrics and even a pinch of psychedelic rock. The resultant sound had some of the same reverb-resonance of Oasis' hard-charging debut disc, *Definitely Maybe*, but ironically would become **best known worldwide for the radio hit ballads that it spawned, in the form of "Wonderwall," "Don't Look Back in Anger" and the elliptical "Champagne Supernova."**

With the use of rarely seen archive footage, long forgotten videos, brief clips of live and studio performances and interview contributions from peer musicians around at the time, this 80-minute program uncovers why Oasis' second album is arguably their most satisfying. The aforementioned snippets are wrapped chiefly around thoughts from music critics. This may sound drab on the surface, but talking heads like author Paolo Hewitt and journalists Andrew Mueller, Pat Gilbert and Mark Beaumont have, individually and collectively, great insight into the working class romanticism and **unique combination of arrogance and wistfulness that has always been at the core of Oasis' music,** and they make this title great for casual and dedicated Oasis fans alike.

DVD supplemental bonus features consist of full contributor biographies, an interactive quiz on the band, and the full audio recording from the infamous time Oasis and Blur — who would engage in a goading battle of publicity for the mantle of "England's greatest rock band" — shared a radio station studio in the fall of 1995, each with new singles to promote. **B+ (Movie) B (Disc)**





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Sunday, April 22, 2007

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