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Under Review

Keith Richards

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Review

by Joe Viglione

This is an extraordinary two hour plus documentary on Keith Richards from *Sexy Intellectual/Chrome Dreams* which works much more effectively than the *Rolling Stones Under Review 1962 - 1966* from the same company, probably because Keith is such an enigma as well as being the most fun personality/antagonist of the group. A stellar cast of rock critics and insiders help tell the story of the "pirate" guitarist along with music instructor/author *Wolf Marshall* who plays many famous *Rolling Stones* riffs throughout this production. Some of the same faces from the aforementioned 1962-1966 *Rolling Stones Under Review* return here - "original" *Stones* guitarist *Dick Taylor*, as he is called, former bodyguard *Tom Keylock*, about fourteen in all with an alphabetical by first initial group of biographies of the guests embedded as a bonus track. Divided into sixteen titled chapters narrator *Thomas Arnold* pulls the story together with his vocal authority, though the project tends to focus on *The Stones* more than the lead guitarist. Author *Robert Greenfield* has much to offer, his book *Exile On Main Street: A Season In Hell With The Rolling Stones* chock full of tales of Richards and company, biographer *John Perry* picking up the same theme while the discussion turns to *Exile On Main Street*. The director does a fine job of slipping pertinent clips of "Tumblin' Dice" and "Happy" into the mix as well as a very nice blend of Keith performing a solo rendition of "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" which drifts into *Wolf Marshall* playing the riff and a key moment of *Mick Jagger* and the band performing part of a live version of the tune.

Bernie Worrell and *Kris Needs* discuss *Talk Is Cheap*, the 1988 solo disc, and perhaps this DVD should have focused on purely the Keith Richards side of things - bringing in *Mick Taylor* and uncredited *Talk Is Cheap* co-producer *Rob Fraboni* to go through the psychology of Keith, adding more non-*Stones* to this saga. The last half hour does focus on the guitarist more than his famous rock and roll band, but what this actually turns out to be is a dynamite look at *The Rolling Stones* with a bit of the focus on Keith Richards. There's a five minute bonus track with *Zig Zag* editor *Kris Needs* and some of his interview audio with the star. There's also the obligatory "interactive quiz" which will insult you - even if you get more than 50% of the questions right! A solid project throughout and worthy of repeated viewings.

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