

# THE VANCOUVER SUN

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**As it turns out, it's not only rock 'n' roll**

**Marke Andrews, Vancouver Sun**

UNDER REVIEW

Keith Richards

MVD Entertainment

Rating 4

If you've never seen any of the music documentaries in MVD's Under Review series, this would be a good jumping-off point. The two-hour Keith Richards: Under Review spends more time examining the artistry of the real musical force of the Rolling Stones than it does his better-known off-stage antics, which keep this from turning into a tabloid freak show.

The next sound you hear is Britney Spears ringing the producer.

The film looks at Richards's formative years, how in the late 1950s he embraced the rock and Delta blues of America. The early Rolling Stones records were basically covers of American blues and R&B, forms that guitarist Brian Jones had mastered. When the band moved to original material, Richards and vocalist Mick Jagger became the writing team and Jones's role diminished, and he began to slide into drug addiction. Richards then stole Jones's girlfriend, Anita Pallenberg ("Shit happens," said Richards in a 1989 interview), the band gave Jones the boot, and a month later Jones was found dead in his swimming pool.

The band's rise to the top is documented, as is Richards's relationship with Jagger, which was strong for the glory years but waned when Jagger chose the life of a socialite. Richards's solo career is inevitably compared to Jagger's, with critic Rober Christgau stating that Richards outdid Jagger "because Mick Jagger has these pop ambitions and Keith does not."