



NICK DRAKE Under Review

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Though die-hard Nick Drake fans may find this hour and a half docu-biography superfluous, the general public doesn't have much of a clue about this puzzling but important musical figure. As with the {Kate Bush} entry in this "Under Review" series, the "review and critique of" Drake and his music is a wonderful introduction that gives a "Cliff Notes" look at him in a very warm and respectful way. With Fairport Convention alum Ashley Hutchings and Dave Mattacks as well as biographers Trevor Dann and Patrick Humphries, Incredible String Band's Robin Williamson and the usual insiders that Sexy Intellectual Chrome Dreams track down to participate, the brief life of Drake is covered in such an engaging way that the unfamiliar viewer will most likely want to pick up on his music after hearing Drake's story. The Velvet Underground connection is touched upon and John Cale would've been a nice touch had he been interviewed for this; that's not a complaint, only a nod that the intense fan base of that group would certainly help spread the word with more efficiency. And the fact that John Cale is a welcome presence on any and all projects he is involved with. That being said, the hardcore fans would be wise to lighten-up in regards to the more obscure details they may want on a DVD as the direction and pacing here is excellent and will probably do more to expand the appreciation of this artist than minutiae. Let the purists seek out the rarities and post them on You Tube, this "Under Review" is worth watching time and again and gets a thumbs up for a job well done.

- Joe Viglione