



The Pink Floyd and Syd Barrett Story: Deluxe Edition
Under Review: Bruce Springsteen/Nick Drake/Neil Young/
Byrds/Keith Richards
D.O.A.: Smash The State
Impact! Songs that Changed the World
Willie Nelson: Last of the Breed

There seems to be no end to mankind's fascination with **Pink Floyd**, one of those rare rock ensembles that has enjoyed vast multi-generational appeal and whose career arc spans four decades and several very musical personalities. **The Grateful Dead, Led Zeppelin, Fleetwood Mac** and **Rolling Stones** are revered as much for their celebrity personas as their music, much of which stopped being interesting 30 years ago. At some point in their long careers, the musicians accepted marketplace demands and reserved a portion of themselves for branding purposes and mass consumption. It wasn't until the mid-'70s, and the release of *The Dark Side of the Moon* and *Wish You Were Here*, that **Pink Floyd** recorded albums that were considered fully accessible and commercial. Even if the band's songs now featured socially relevant lyrics and deeply personal observations, both albums overflowed with material that could be sung out loud - really loud -- in a car or shower, and reap platinum discs to be hung on the walls of executive offices. The material from those albums is what fans still want to hear on the radio, in concerts and reunions at benefit events. It does not, however, represent the bulk of the lads' work, which was highly experimental, overtly trippy and compatible enough with the visions of such filmmakers as **Barbet Schroeder** and **Michelangelo Antonioni** that they were asked to do soundtracks. The latest edition of **The Pink Floyd and Syd Barrett Story** delves far deeper into the band's musical evolution and how individual members impacted thematic direction. The legend of the recently deceased Syd Barrett is recounted through archival TV footage, home movies and interviews with friends, managers and band members. The three-hour-plus Deluxe Edition also adds full, unedited versions of previously released interviews, acoustic performances of Barrett's songs by **Robyn Hitchcock** and ex-Blur member **Graham Coxon**, and other memorabilia.

MVD's **Under Review** series continues apace with learned analysis of music produced by rockers **Bruce Springsteen**, the late **Nick Drake, Neil Young, Keith Richards** and the **Byrds** at crucial turning points in their careers. The Boss, who's currently on tour, is represented by **1978-82: Tales of the Working Man**, in which critics, friends and industry mavens discuss such masterpieces as *Darkness on the Edge of Town*, *The River* and *Nebraska*. The examination of the Byrds' works encompasses the period when the group briefly included **Gram Parsons** and, together, they almost single-handedly injected traditional country music into the rock vocabulary (and paved the way for the Eagles-ization of pop-country). The upcoming **Neil Young** set focuses on the often tumultuous period from 1976 to 2006. This was when he experimented, not always successfully, with techno, country, synth, punk and R&B, but routinely returned to the hardest of hard rock alongside Crazy Horse. The Drake and Richards discs provide career overviews through archival video and concert footage, rare photographs, critical analysis and interviews.

Also from MVD comes **D.O.A.: Smash the State**, which recounts the glory days of one of

punkdom's primary practitioners. The DVD includes material from the band populated by **Joe Shithead, Chuck Biscuits, Randy Rampage** and **Dave Gregg** (Gregg, obviously, being an alias), which is considered to be the band's essential incarnation. The analysts demonstrate how D.O.A. influenced **Green Day, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Henry Rollins, Rancid, David Grohl, NOFX** and **Bad Religion**, among others. Most of the footage is taken from shows in San Francisco and the East Bay.

SRO's continuing series, **Impact! Songs that Changed the World**, promotes the notion that the success of a single rock or pop 45 could effect a ripple that would grow larger and larger, until it reached icon status. The individual discs dissect the **Ramones' *I Want to Be Sedated*, Chuck Berry's *Maybellene*, Nirvana's *Smells Like Teen Spirit*, Madonna's *Like a Virgin*** and the **Beatles' *I Want to Hold Your Hand***. Here, the songs are discussed by such prominent artists as **Smokey Robinson, Annie Lennox, Jeff Tweedy, B.B. King, the Edge** and **Tori Amos**.

Among the great cultural crimes of the 20th Century was the marginalization of musical icons by record labels and radio conglomerates. **Tony Bennett** was banished, as was **Johnny Cash**. If it weren't for satellite and Internet radio, young listeners could easily think the pioneers of country music were extinct. The **Last of the Breed** represents a reunion of still-vital country giants **Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, and Ray Price**. It is built around a 35-song concert, recorded at the Rosemont Theater, just outside Chicago. DVD bonus features include **Ray Benson's** interview with the boys, and a guided tour of Nelson's tour bus. -- Gary Dretzka