

### Sixties band histories

The Byrds began as a folk group, advanced into rock and then settled back into country, and that arc is chronicled in the comprehensive two-platter Sexy International release, **The Byrds Under Review** (UPC#82356-4510798, \$25). Interviews with David Crosby and Roger McGuinn are fleeting, but the other band members (there was a healthy turnover of personnel during the group's run) speak extensively about the songs, the collaborations and conflicts, and the experience of being in a popular group. There are no complete songs, but there are decent excerpts and terrific archival clips as each major number the band put out is thoroughly dissected and placed in context of both the group's development and the advancements of pop music in general. Each major conceptual breakthrough is particularly fascinating, especially since most viewers are generally aware of the shifts in the band's style but less familiar with how they got from one point to the next.

The program runs 182 minutes and is split evenly between the two platters. The full screen picture is reasonably sharp and the archival material, though varying in quality, is workable. The sound is generally centered, but clear, and there is no captioning. Also featured on the second platter are 14 minutes of additional interviews with Gene Parsons and Jerry Cole, and text profiles of the primary interviewees.

The 153 minutes needed to tell the story of **Classic Artists: The Moody Blues**, from Emperor Media Holdings and Image Entertainment (UPC#014381325027, \$25), is fit onto a single platter, but a second platter is included in the set anyway, to present an additional 58 minutes of unused interviews (including fascinating tales of fan hysteria and, from Ian Anderson, a terrific reflection upon the use of the flute in rock music—"I set about it really because Eric Clapton didn't play the flute, and then quickly I realized neither did Jimi Hendrix or Jimmy Page or Jeff Beck."), a 7-minute newsreel piece on a launch party for one of their early albums and 20 minutes of complete 'music video' song clips. Again, the songs within the 2006 documentary are never heard in full, but there are so many terrific archival excerpts and such exhaustive deconstructions of each number that you feel like you've heard them in full anyway. Most of the band members participate in the interviews, and while the group did not go through quite as many changes in style as the Byrds did, the formulation of their faux classical sound and accompanying mock poetic lyrics is an engaging tale of discovery and success.

The picture is presented in letterboxed format only, with an aspect ratio of about 1.78:1 and an accommodation for enhanced 16:9 playback. The image is very crisp and archival footage is adequate. The monophonic sound is very clear and full. There is no captioning. Along with additional footage, the second platter contains an extensive still file presentation of photos and other memorabilia. Also featured in the set is an amusing 22-minute audio CD from the band's earliest days, reminiscent of Spinal Tap's 'Thamesmen' bit.

Running 86 minutes, **The Rolling Stones Under Review 1967-1969**, another Sexy release (UPC#823564511894, \$20), uses very limited music clips and focuses only on a 3-year period, but it was a prolific and definitive time for the band, which rose to become one of the preeminent rock groups, produced several still preeminent rock albums, and lost one of their founding members, whose deterioration can be monitored as the archival footage progresses. Unlike many of the other **Under Review** programs, limited attention is spent on deconstructing individual songs, but the most significant cuts are discussed. The dozen or so interviewees are mostly reporters and secondary studio musicians, but the narrative is well organized, some of the footage is wonderful, and the maturation the band underwent mirrored the cultural maturation that was happening in both Britain and America at the same time, so that the group's story becomes an appropriate microcosm for the world at large.

The full screen picture is sharp. The sound is clear, but mostly centered, and there is no captioning. Along with text profiles of the interviewees and a trivia quiz, there is a 2-minute deleted scene.

### Campbell classics

A worthwhile 57-minute collection of the highpoints from Glen Campbell's Sixties variety TV show, **Glen Campbell Good Times Again**, has been released by Time-Life (UPC#610583346091, \$20). The aging Campbell introduces each clip, and in a good 16-minute supplement, talks about the gestation of his various hit songs and a little bit more about some of his co-stars. Along with a very funny Smothers Brothers skit (Tommy Smothers in a cowboy outfit is sitting on a real hippopotamus), the musical highlights include duets with Johnny Cash, Roger Miller, Ray Charles, Cher, Anne Murray, Rick Nelson, B.J. Thomas, Willie Nelson (if he were walking down the street the way he looks, you'd never notice him), and John Hartford. He also sings several numbers solo. The most riveting sequence, however, is a duet of *Let It Be Me* with Bobby Gentry. Gentry may just be a very good actress, but she looks like she's going to be all over him as soon as the camera is turned off (she keeps breaking into this little, half-suppressed smile when she looks in his eyes), and in the history of sexy song numbers, this belongs in the top ten.

The full screen picture has very fresh colors and the image is sharp enough. The monophonic sound is clear and there is no captioning.

### Humperdinck profile

A 48-minute profile from 1998, **Engelbert Humperdinck Kind of Romance**, has been released by MPI Home Entertainment (UPC#0303-06783192, \$20). The program has a voiceover narrator who charts the rise of Humperdinck's career, but it also includes interviews with his family and associates, and with Humperdinck himself. There are healthy music clips, although the songs are never heard in their entirety without voiceover interruptions and such. For fans who already have access to those songs, however, then the portrait the program provides will be a welcome addition to their collection.

The full screen picture is a little soft and grainy, but workable. The monophonic sound is smooth and clear. There are optional English subtitles.

### Pornographic Refinements

A faux documentary from 1971 that pretends to present a lecture on sexuality, illustrated with dramatic skits that inevitably become hardcore sex sequences, **Refinements in Love**, has been issued by Impulse Pictures (UPC# 654930100394, \$30). Fans will appreciate the sense of period the film conveys with its generic footage of American street culture in the Sixties and the sometimes amusing emotional premises of the skits, but there is not enough to qualify the 88-minute program as anything other than the porn it is. The picture is presented in letterboxed format only, with an aspect ratio of about 1.85:1 and an accommodation for enhanced 16:9 playback. The color is often faded to a varying degree, and there are occasional speckles. The monophonic sound is serviceable and there is no captioning.

### DVD News

**KEYSTONE CHAPLIN:** Thirty of Charles Chaplin's short films made at Keystone Studios in 1914 are featured on **Chaplin The Keystone Period**, available for \$35 from Christopher Perry, 7470 Church St. Suite A, Yucca Valley CA 92284. Phone (760)365-0475 [evildoctor3d@yahoo.com](mailto:evildoctor3d@yahoo.com)

**CRY U.N.C.L.E.:** Like *Get Smart*, **The Man from U.N.C.L.E. The Complete Series** will only be available through [www.timelife.com](http://www.timelife.com). Priced at \$250, the boxed set will feature all 105 episodes, plus **One Spy Too Many** and many other special features.

**DOUBLE BOOGEY:** Sony Home Entertainment's **Boogeyman 2: Unrated Director's Cut** will have two commentary tracks.

**DEAD AGAIN:** Anchor Bay Home Entertainment's release of the three-platter **Evil Dead The Ultimate Edition** will have a number of new retrospective featurettes.

**FORMAT WARS:** The following titles have been released on Blu-Ray—*Dawn of the Dead*, *Day of the Dead*, *Evil Dead II* *Dead by Dawn*, *Halloween*, *Masters of Horror Season One Volume One*, *Masters of Horror Season One Volume Two* (Anchor Bay); *The Invisible*, *Meet the Robinsons*, *Scary Movie* (Buena Vista); *The Day after Tomorrow*, *Edward Scissorhands*, *Fantastic Four The Rise of the Silver Surfer*, *The Fly*, *From Hell*, *Hills Have Eyes 2*, *Home of the Brave*, *Mr. Brooks*, *Robocop*, *28 Days Later*, *28 Weeks Later* (Fox); *The Sopranos Season Six Part II* (HBO); *King of the New York* (Lionsgate); *AC/DC Live at Donington*, *Bram Stoker's Dracula*, *The Company*, *Hollow Man*, *Hostel*, *Hostel Part II*, *Reign over Me*, *Surf's Up* (Sony); *A Clockwork Orange*, *Eyes Wide Shut*, *Full Metal Jacket*, *Galapagos*, *The Reaping*, *Return to House on Haunted Hill*, *A Room with a View*, *The Shining*, *Twilight Zone The Movie*, *2001: A Space Odyssey* (Warner). The following titles have been released on HD-DVD—*The Sopranos Season Six Part II* (HBO); *A Mighty Heart*, *Top Gun*, *Transformers* (Paramount); *Motorhead Stage Fright* (SPV); *The Ant Bully*, *A Clockwork Orange*, *The Departed*, *Eyes Wide Shut*, *The Fountain*, *Full Metal Jacket*, *Galapagos*, *Good Night and Good Luck*, *Happy Feet*, *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang*, *Lady in the Water*, *The Lake House*, *Letters from Iwo Jima*, *The Reaping*, *Return to House on Haunted Hill*, *A Room with a View*, *Rumor Has It*, *The Shining*, *Superman Returns*, *Twilight Zone The Movie*, *2001: A Space Odyssey* (Warner); *Carlito's Way*, *Carlito's Way Rise to Power*, *Evan Almighty*, *Inside Man*, *Seed of Chucky* (Universal); *Keali'i Reichel Live in Concert* (WEA).

### DVD and LD Ads

(All DVD and LD Ads are 50 cents a word. Deadline is 5 business days before the end of the month. Address all ads: DVD & LD Ads, The DVD-Laser Disc Newsletter, PO Box 420, East Rockaway NY 11518-0420.)

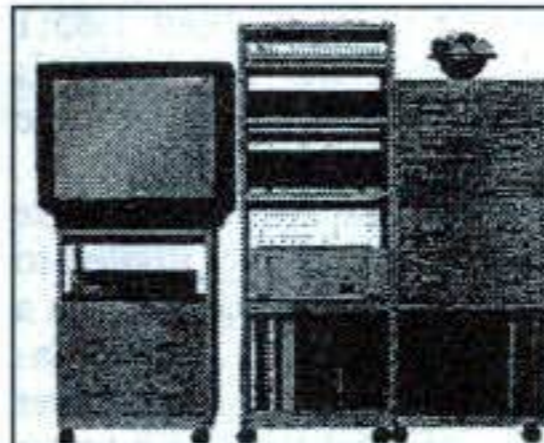
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