



- Left of the Dial Magazine

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### [The Rolling Stones/Under Review – 1967-1969: MVD](#)

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As a finer example of the Under Review genre, this DVD has the benefit of some ace footage provided by already classic films like Jean Luc Goddard's *Live at Altamont* and the notoriously "suppressed" *Rolling Stones Circus*. Sure, it has the usual round of talking head suspects ready and willing, from Rolling Stone editors to journalist friends of the band to biographers and session players. Luckily, it cuts the focus down to three tumultuous years, really, as they argue, the transition period of the Stones from punk-blues bastards of young Britain to arena rock 'em stomp 'em band of the millennium. This is the period that gave birth to the rather tepid *Flowers* record, the singular dark luminescence of "We Love You," the shamanistic "Sympathy for the Devil," and the back-to-basic guitar romp "Jumpin Jack Flash." It's an almost surreal compression of experimentation and exploration, and it is also ground zero for the Brian Jones meltdown who slinks and diminishes from being the very core of the band to being, well, its death monger.

In the meantime, Jagger and Richard inch forward, reclaiming the band, and re-shaping their sensibilities while also combating the suffocating stardom that resulted with drug busts and sex parties, not to mention huge homes and unruly tours. Unlike the other DVDs under the same style banner, this one might actually appeal to non-Stones junkies, meaning the casual viewer who just want to know a little more about the band's drama and unfolding layers of creativity in a time of post-peace park blues. This is the Stones reinventing America for Americans, a time when they slip out of their shells and into the long haul of jukebox fare for a generation doped on agit-prop for and against a seemingly endless Vietnam war. It's a period when the Stones actually listened to the American records they bought off the cuff, discovering the music that made them palpitate and hunger for tradition and change at the same time. This is the transmogrified Stones, under the scope of sober journalism.

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