



<http://www.moviecitynews.com/reviews/DVD/2008/080813.html>

Leonard Cohen: Under Review: 1978 - 2006 picks up from where an earlier Under Review profile left off: in the murky aftermath of the singer-songwriter's ill-advised collaboration with producer **Phil Spector**, whose wall-of-sound never appeared to be a match made in rock-'n'-roll heaven. Facing commercial oblivion, Cohen would find a way to bounce back from that embarrassment and create an album that astounded longtime fans and critics, alike. Not only did *Recent Songs* jump-start his career, but it also influenced a generation of artists untouched by the folk-music revival of the '60s, from whence the bard of Montreal sprang. Cohen's poetry, while always achingly romantic and thought-provoking, ventured beyond the boudoir to include mediations on politics, religion, forgiveness and the role art plays in a soulless world. Later albums would expand on those themes, adding new layers of maturity and life experience to each theme. This Under Review is enhanced by more concert footage than usual, as well as testimony from authorized biographers. Also receiving close scrutiny is the Smiths' 1986 album, **Under Review: The Queen Is Dead**; the '70s British metal scene, in **Iron Maiden** and the **New Wave of British Heavy Metal**; **Rick Wakeman's Grumpy Old Picture Show**, a spin-off of the popular BBC series, **Grumpy Old Men**; and an exploration of Jamaican dancehall, Hollywood-style, in **Jamaican Gold**.

-- Gary Dretzka