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Depeche Mode: The Dark Progression

Posted by David Medsker (06/10/2009 @ 12:00 am)



A definite step above the other unauthorized biographies in *Sexy Intellectual's* catalog but not yet on par with the *Classic Albums* series, this look at the metamorphosis of Depeche Mode from cult electronic act to one of the biggest bands in the world makes one hell of an argument for the band as a worthy inductee into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Featuring interviews with several of the band's producers (Gareth Jones, Dave Bascombe, Daniel Miller) and electronic peers (Thomas Dolby, Gary Numan, OMD's Andy McCluskey), the documentary focuses on the band's rather gutsy decision to explore darker territory, beginning with 1986's *Black Celebration* and ending with 1993's *Songs of Faith and Devotion*, by which time the band was topping the US charts. The claim that the documentary features interviews with the band members is a tad dishonest, as they merely include clips from the short films that Mute assembled for the reissues of the band's catalog in 2006 (and only one clip per member at that). They also gloss over the reasons behind Alan Wilder's departure from the band, a move from which the band has only recently begun to recover. However, there is enough here that will thrill fans of the band in particular and of electronic music in general. Who knew that Andrew Fletcher was a fan of heavy metal? **(Sexy Intellectual 2009)**

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