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How to make the Rolling Stones' Mick Taylor boring -- talk about him

There's little dispute that the Rolling Stones' best period was the one when Mick Taylor was in the band. His distinctive lead lines made Keith Richards that much better and gave a huge musical boost to the rest of the group. Recordings from that period which still trade hands among collectors are treasured.

A DVD about Taylor's period with the band would seem one to look forward to. But "The Rolling Stones - 1969-1974: The Mick Taylor Years" manages to be something we'd never expected -- fairly boring.

There are plenty of words about Taylor's work from many good sources, including John Mayall, with whom Taylor played in Mayall's Bluesbreakers before he arrived in the Stones, longtime music critic Robert Christgau and even Taylor himself.

But when it comes right down to it, the proof is in the pudding, er, the music, and there really isn't enough here to appreciate Taylor's fine work. Which is a shame. There's a short clip from the Hyde Park show where Taylor made his debut, but it's cut off before it finishes. And there are a few other musical clips, but most of them are from the studio and certainly there's not enough.

It'd be great if more of his live work would be released. The recent "Stones in Exile" DVD was a great first step. Putting "Ladies and Gentlemen, the Rolling Stones" out legitimately would certainly help.

"The Rolling Stones - 1969-1974: The Mick Taylor Years" may be fine for those who want to dissect Taylor's work, but it really comes down to the music. And that's what this DVD should have had more of, but doesn't.

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