

Nelson Tethers: Puzzle Agent [Game]

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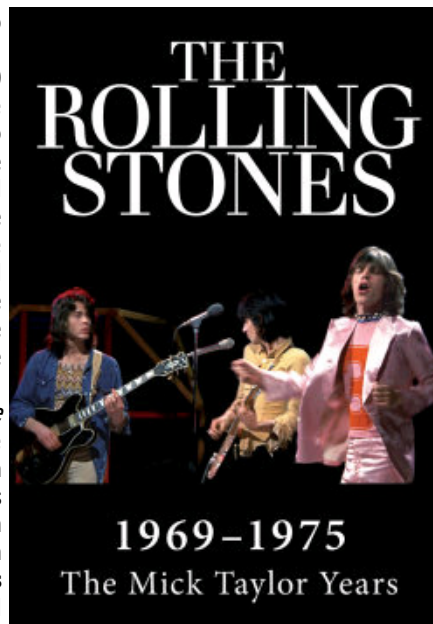
The Rolling Stones 1969 - 1974 - The Mick Taylor Years

Score: **80%**
 Rating: **Not Rated**
 Publisher: **MVD Entertainment Group**
 Region: **A**
 Media: **DVD/1**
 Running Time: **99 Min.**
 Genre: **Documentary/Live Performance/Musical**
 Audio: **Stereo Sound**

Features:

"Meet Mick" Interviews with John Mayall and Alan Clayton
 Contributor Biographies

There are probably youngsters out there who don't even know that **The Rolling Stones** are a British band, or that they hail from almost 40 years back. This documentary explores the reasons why the Stones not only managed to become an international sensation, but why the 5-year period between '69 and '74 is considered by many to be the band's greatest. Claims like "the greatest rock band of all time" and "the greatest rock album of all time" are bandied about in **The Mick Taylor Years**, which will be a turn off for many people. Getting beyond the fan service and blind adoration, you'll find some solid criticism here from people like Adam Clayton, author of *The Rolling Stones Album File & Complete Discography*, and people that "were there" such as John Mayall. Mick Taylor even spends some time on-camera describing his feelings about leaving the band, initially to join Jack Bruce. This is more than just narration with some stock photos; **The Mick Taylor Years** does a great job of mixing recorded performances with photo records and modern rock historians.



The Mick Taylor Years, sadly enough, began with the departure of Brian Wilson from the band, followed quickly by Wilson's death. The first live performance Taylor had with The Stones was a memorial concert for Wilson, a fairly grim beginning to his stay with the band. The next five years saw **The Rolling Stones** release classic albums like *Sticky Fingers* in '71, *Exile on Main Street* in '72, and *It's Only Rock 'n Roll* in '74, which would be Taylor's last full album with the band. Prior to joining The Stones, Taylor cut his teeth with John Mayall's Bluesbreakers, filling a pair of rather large shoes left when Eric Clapton departed the Bluesbreakers. Other than some notable performances, Taylor's career after The Stones was unexceptional, but **The Rolling Stones 1969 - 1974** does a nice job illustrating what he did as a Stone that made him such a standout.

There's some speculation about the bad stuff, but a consensus opinion on **The Mick Taylor Years** is that Jagger's and Richards' resistance to sharing song-writing credits led to a rift. In his five years with the band, Taylor was only credited as a writer on one song, and residuals on writing credits are where the real money comes from in this business. How much writing



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Taylor did is up for debate, but no one denies that he brought something to the band that really came to define the sound of **The Rolling Stones**. Traditional rock guitar, country strings, raw funk sound, and lyrical solo lines flowed out of Taylor's guitar, complementing the more raw musicianship brought by the likes of Keith Richards. At one point in this film, the comment is made that while his successor Ronnie Wood was likely a better team fit for the Stones, Taylor was a superior musical complement, especially as a foil for Jagger.

Regardless of how strongly you feel about Taylor, **The Rolling Stones 1969 - 1974 - The Mick Taylor Years** does a nice job of walking through each pivotal record in this period, and covers in-depth the recording sessions, band relationships, and key cultural changes happening during this period. It's required viewing for any core Stones' fan, and it will even give casual fans a new appreciation for the history behind tracks that have worked their way into popular culture.

-Fridtjof, GameVortex Communications AKA Matt Paddock

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