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The Rolling Stones: "1969-1974: The Mick Taylor Years"

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By: Paul Barrel

The Rolling Stones 1969-1974: The Mick Taylor Years (Chrome/MVD)

The Rolling Stones "1969-1974: The Mick Taylor Years" is a fascinating DVD which explores an interesting period for the band. It was a time which many consider their "golden age" ... for this was the time when the band moved into arenas and solidified their reputation as the bad boys of rock.

A lot was going on in 1969. Founding member Brian Jones had left the group, the band was coming off of a three-year hiatus from playing live and widespread success in America beckoned. They recruited Mick Taylor = a 20-year-old, hotshot guitarist from John Mayall's Bluesbreakers to do overdubs on the *Let it Bleed* album. Taylor was also being considered as a fill in for Jones on the band's pending American tour; as Jones' VISA had been denied. Jones had a lot of problems and subsequently left the band. He died tragically within a month of his departure and Taylor stepped into his position as a full-fledged member. Taylor's live debut was a free concert in London's Hyde Park in front of 250,000 people just two days after Jones' death.

Prior to 1969, the Stones had not really done any extensive touring and though they had popular singles were really not considered a serious "rock" band due to the fact that they didn't have a great lead player. Taylor changed that perspective and provided the band "the walk" they needed to pair with "the talk." In essence, Taylor brought the goods that allowed them to enter a new age n- one that would eventually propel them to superstardom

Taylor played and recorded with the band through 1974. During his tenure, he was a part of the infamous Altamont concert, He also recorded and toured behind seminal works *Sticky Fingers*, *Exile on Main Street*, *Goatshead Soup* and *It's Only Rock n' Roll*. Taylor left for a variety of reasons; including growing tensions between himself and the Glimmer Twins (Mick Jagger and Keith Richards) over songwriting credit (despite numerous contributions through his five-year tenure, Taylor only received one co-credit: "Ventilator Blues" off of *Exile*). On "1969-1974: The Mick Taylor Years," Taylor himself acknowledges that he felt the band had peaked in terms of songwriting and he felt it was time to go.

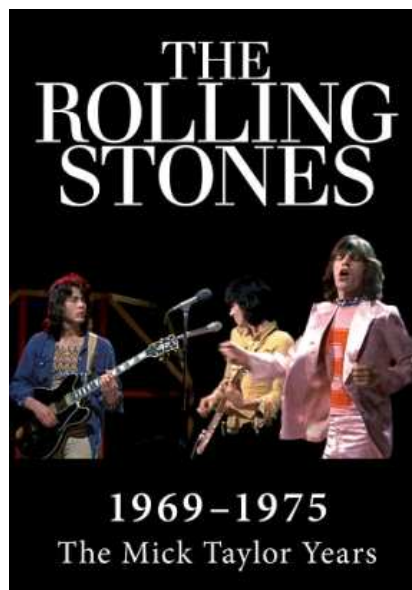
While learning about Taylor's influence and presence in shaping the Rolling Stones legacy, you also get an insight into the workings of the band and how they transformed themselves from being pop stars to having the reputation of being a raucous and notorious gang. Further, through their partnership with Atlantic Records and the over-the-top conclusion of their 1972 tour, the Rolling Stones are given credit as bringing about the end of the era of rock.

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