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The Mick Taylor Years

# The Rolling Stones 1969 – 1974: The Mick Taylor Years

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The Rolling Stones are considered by many music fans and critics one of the greatest rock n' roll bands that has ever existed. This is something that will always be debated however with different tastes in music coming into the equation as well as many other factors. You have to give them credit though as there aren't many bands who are still releasing new music and touring especially at the age that the members of The Rolling Stones are and when 2012 rolls around, The Stones will be celebrating a landmark 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary since they originally started writing music together.

*The Rolling Stones 1969 – 1974: The Mick Taylor Years* documents the shift in the lineup of the band. As the 60's came to a close The Stones reached a point where there was a bit of turmoil in the band mainly due to Brian Jones who had a number of problems surrounding him including heavy drug use which was keeping him from attending recording sessions and eventually it became something interfered with him obtaining a Visa to tour the United States. Jones was fired from the band and Mick Taylor, the guitarist from John Mayall's Bluesbreakers was soon hired as his replacement.

For many, this brief period of Taylor being in the band was one where the band produced some of their best tracks. That's not a surprise as this would be when The Stones would release songs such as "You Can't Always Get What You Want", "Brown Sugar", and "It's Only Rock 'n Roll (But I Like It)" among many others. This would also be the time period when some of their most critically acclaimed albums such as Sticky Fingers and Exile on Main St. and when you're a newcomer to the band like Taylor was, you've got big shoes to fill as well as a lot to live up to considering you've just joined an act with a huge reputation associated with them.

The documentary includes rare concert footage, interview footage, even some photographs and a bulk of it is told by critics, musicians, and even those who were close to The Stones to some degree. For many of us here in the United States however, most of the names associated with the documentary are going to be ones that we're not familiar with in the slightest as most have done work that is more often seen in the United Kingdom, though I'm certain a few of them have a very loyal following in other locations as well. Regardless of what you know about them though, most of them are very educated in virtually anything dealing with The Rolling Stones and in particular this brief union of Taylor and the band. At times it can comes across as a bit stuffy, but there are also a great many details that are offered, a few amusing stories, and of course plenty of gushing "reviews" of songs and albums.

The disc isn't heavy on extra features. There's Meeting Mick Taylor which is more stories on the guitarist as well as biographies on the individuals who are featured during the course of the film which really isn't too bad if you're not aware of their careers.

The Rolling Stones have cemented themselves as being a band that has moved beyond rock icons. *The Rolling Stones 1969 – 1974: The Mick Taylor Years* may not feature the band in their own words, but for fans it is a must have that will give a very different perspective on this historic point in the history of The Rolling Stones.

-mike-

Narrated by: Thomas Arnold DVD Features: Aspect Ratio: 1.33:1 Audio: English Dolby Digital 2.0 Meeting Mick Taylor Contributors Biographies

Featuring: Alan Clayson Robert Christgau Robert Greenfield Barney Hoskyns John Mayall Al Perkins John Perry Bill Plumber Nigel Williamson

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