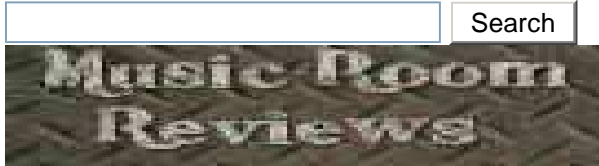


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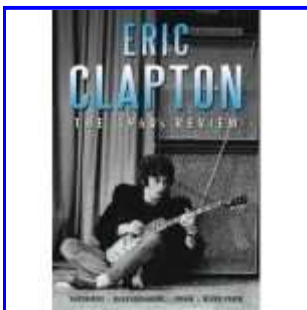


Eric Clapton: The 1960's Review DVD Review

Published on September 27, 2010 by [Christina Zawadiwsky](#) · No Comments

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Like the entire British Chrome Dream Review series, **Eric Clapton:**

The 1960's Review is comprehensive, complex and complicated, but absolutely enjoyable to view! Released on DVD on 9-21-10 by Chrome Dreams/MVDvisual, this DVD spans Clapton's early years and his time spent with The Yardbirds, John Mayall's Bluesbreakers, Cream and Blind Faith and is an excellent introduction to his music and its origins, with a fine group of musical experts and ex-band members complementing and rounding out historical facts with personal anecdotes.

Convincing his grandparents (with whom he lived) to buy him a guitar, Clapton admits spending all of the time that he wasn't at arts school, from the ages of 16 to 22, staying at home and learning American blues songs from records (eventually making him part of the British Blues Explosion). In this regard he was a purist and at first didn't find many others who shared his obsession (Neil Innes likens them to vampires in the night!). Then Ben Palmer and Tom McGuinness got together and were looking for others for their future band, and Clapton became a part of The Roosters, noted, during this time, for his flair for improvisation. Later he joined The Yardbirds, who were at that time one of the few Southern British blues bands, and played at The Crawdaddy Club (he replaced Top Topperman, whose father wanted him to be a painter). In 1964 the album *Five Live Yardbirds* came out, and by 1966 Clapton had a personal following.

The archival videos in this DVD shows a young and energized Clapton who cared more about his riffs than he did about his audience, sometimes even playing with his back towards them. Multitudes of young fans were first introduced to the blues by the Yardbirds, and Clapton was actually opposed to the song *For Your Love* when it first came out (despite its vast popularity) because it wasn't the blues. He then joined John Mayall's band *The Bluesbreakers*, and John Mayall took him under his wing, offering him a place to stay when he didn't have one and an atmosphere conducive to his development.

Clapton, who was ambitious and had become an icon, then became a part of the new band *Cream*, and the rest is history. One of their fans from Seattle, Jimmie Hendrix, showed up to play with them unexpectedly when he arrived in London – and of course Hendrix came from both the sociological and musical background that the Britishers were emulating! American TV found *Cream* difficult because a *Cream* jam could last 20 minutes, with various members doing solos, while everyone else was singing 2-minute songs. In 1967 they were THE British psychedelic blues band, touring America and playing with the likes of *The Who*, *Wilson Pickett*, and *Mitch Ryder* and *The Detroit Wheels*. This was the time of such legendary songs as *The Sunshine Of Your Love*, with *Led Zeppelin* being the only other band playing in a similar format.

This review can only skim the surface of all the archival performance clips, sound bytes, interviews and facts brought forth in the DVD *Eric Clapton: The 1960's Review*. I am always amazed at how enterprising *Chrome Dreams* is in taking on the history of performers like Clapton, since the editing time alone must be monumental, given so many sources! This DVD is a top-grade testament to Eric Clapton's early career, and I highly recommend it to everyone.

Grade: A

Running Time: 120 minutes

With Extras *Sonny Boy Williamson* and *The Yardbirds*, *Paul Jones* on *Eric Clapton's Powerhouse*, *Bill Halverson* on *Cream's Badge*, and *Contributor Biographies*

Edited by *Alec Lindsell*

Narrated by *Thomas Arnold*

With *Eric Clapton*, *John Mayall*, *Paul Jones*, *Neil Innes*, *Tom McGuinness*, *Chris Dreja*, *Top Topham*, *Ben Palmer*, *Dave Kelly* and *Cream* producer *Bill Halvorsen*, plus insights from *Cream* biographer *Chris Welch*, *Yardbirds* biographer *Alan Clayson* and *Uncut* magazine's editor *Nigel Williamson*

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