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THE SOUNDS OF **BLUE** By Bob Putignano

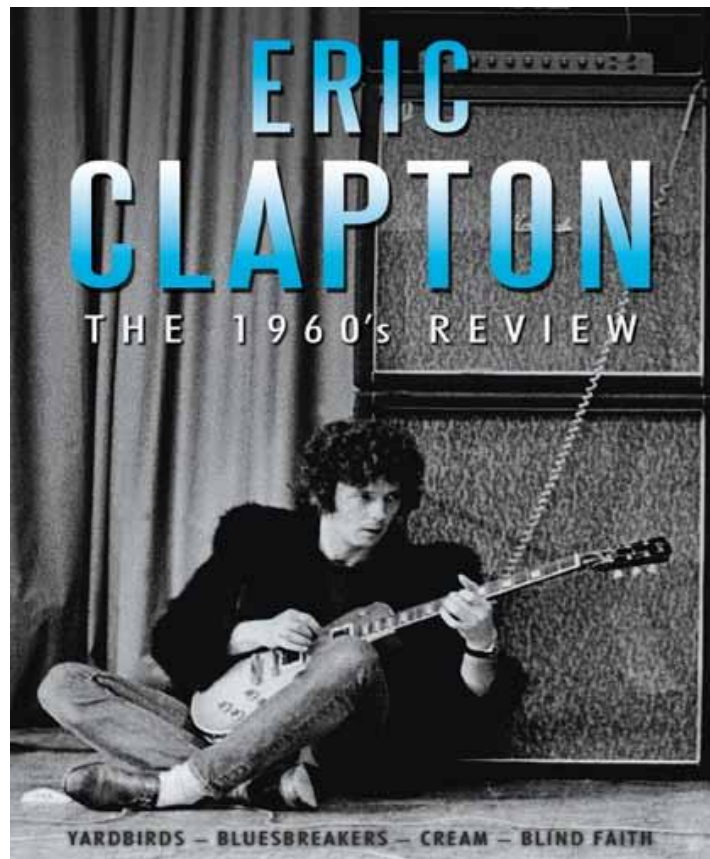


Eric Clapton "The 1960's Review" DVD MVD Video—An Excellent Blues-Rockumentary

I wasn't sure if this documentary on Eric Clapton would shed any light about his (already) well documented past, not to mention the reality that a vast majority of these documentary's are typically boring, not this one! Clapton's covered a lot of musical territories and has been recognized by his peers and critics throughout his career. Rolling Stone Magazine rates Eric the fourth greatest guitarist of all time, and fifty-third on their Greatest Artists of All Time. EC has also been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame- three times!

Clapton's moods and styles have changed over the years, but for the most part he's remained rooted and loyal to the blues. This documentary focuses on Eric's developmental years, his thirst for the American Blues music, his dislike for being disingenuous to blues, and more. There's vintage snapshots and video footage from most of the bands Clapton performed with during the sixties, and the interviews segments are very well blended with these rare performances that will hold your interest throughout and will not have you looking for the fast-forward button on your DVD remote.

While some of the early video clips are (as expected) not of vivid clarity, they are still fascinating to observe a very young EC formulating his craft, and shows how advanced his guitar playing was during his time with Yardbirds, plus there's a great segment with the Yardbirds backing Sonny Boy Williamson. How he raised the bar further during his tenure with the Grandfather of British Blues with John Mayall's Bluesbreakers. Onward with the enormous successes with the explosive (in more ways than



one) popularity of the power blues-rock group Cream, and closes the sixties with super-group Blind Faith. Unfortunately there's little spoken about EC's time with Delaney & Bonnie which I would have liked to have seen and known more about.

The DVD also includes new interviews with musicians and performers including John Mayall, Paul Jones, Neil Innes, Tom McGuinness, Chris Dreja, Top Topham, Ben Palmer, Dave Kelly and Cream producer Bill Halverson, plus insight from Cream biographer Chris Welch, Yardbirds

biographer Alan Clayson and Uncut magazine's contributing editor, Nigel Williamson.

Bottom line, I found this DVD to be highly entertaining, insightful and fast paced, the two hours just flew by, which should give you a pretty good idea as to why this documentary is well worth your hard earned dollars and time. Enjoy!

Bob Putignano is host of WFDU's Sounds of Blue, www.SoundsofBlue.com the most pledged to program for three consecutive years