



Music Movie Mondays: Brian Wilson Songwriter 1962-1969

By [David Voigt](#), Toronto Independent Film Examiner
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In this installment of Music Movie Mondays we take a look at a pivotal period of time in pop music and one of its key sonic innovators, Brian Wilson.

Brian Wilson Songwriter 1962-1969 is a 2 part 3 hour documentary that takes an in-depth and intense look at the songs Brian wrote not only for the Beach Boys but for many other notable artists as well and tracks his evolution and maturation process as an artist. It includes historical musical performances and rare and classic recordings re-assessed by a panel of experts along with obscure footage, rare archive interviews and seldom seen photographs along with exclusive contributions from fellow Beach Boys, Bruce Johnston and David Marks; Wrecking Crew musicians Carol Kaye and Hal Blaine; friend and Beach Boys manager Fred Vail; producers Russ Titelman and Bill Halverson; Wilson family friends Billy Hinsche and Danny Hutton, biographers Peter Ames Carlin and Domenic Priore and many others along with live and studio recordings of Brian Wilson classics.

As a music fan, it is a fantastic look at the evolution of popular music. From the surf rock sound, to the challenges that the British Invasion created for the band, along with the difficulties of working within the confines of the music industry and the resistance that was felt as Brian Wilson the artist was trying to spread his wings. All this lead up to the infamous "Smile" sessions which ended up falling apart that resulted in his eventual drug and mental health problems which could fill another 3 hour documentary in its own right.

The only true downfall of this film is in its intense focus, going through the Beach Boys catalog nearly track by track can get a little tedious for the casual fan unwilling to make such a long investment on the subject of the Beach Boys, however this is a minor point and doesn't take away from the overall mosaic that is the story of this music.

Bonus features include a brief vignette about the influence that the Beach Boys: Pet Sounds had on the UK music scene and how much more successful the record was in the UK then it was in the USA, along with a brief segment explaining the ultimate downfall of the Beach



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Boys in 1970.

At the end of this long, yet never tedious documentary even the most casual music fan will be given a clearer portrait of the musical influence that the Beach Boys and Brian Wilson had on pop music, even though they never really evolved to keep up with the ever changing decade that was the 1960's.

4 out of 5 stars

You can check your local Toronto video stores [here](#), to see if this available for rent, but I'd recommend picking it up on amazon.com.

Tags: Brian Wilson, DVD review, the beach boys, Surf Rock, smile, pop music