



Brian Wilson - Songwriter 1962-1969

Chrome Dreams

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Starting out by charting the arrival of The Beach Boys as part of the west coast surf boom of the early 60s this impressive double DVD documentary details over the space of it's three hour plus playing time the expedient blossoming of Brian Wilson's talents not only as a songwriter but also as an arranger and a producer across the chronology of The Beach Boys classic 60s discography from the early 45 successes of 'Surfin' and 'Surfin USA' to the triumph of 'Pet Sounds', the thwarted masterpiece of 'Smile' and Wilson's subsequent withdrawal from public life and his descent into depression and drug dependency. Along the way Wilson's stylistic borrowings from Chuck Berry, Phil Spector, his ongoing creative rivalry with Lennon & McCartney and other aspects of his evolving and ultimately troubled genius are considered by a cast of interviewees which includes former Beach Boys David Marks and Bruce Johnston, Wrecking Crew veterans Hal Blaine and Carol Kaye, producers Russ Titelman and Bill Halverson and The Beach Boys friend and manager Fred Vail. Extras include Bruce Johnston's recollections of his encounters with Keith Moon and Lennon & McCartney at the time of the release of 'Pet Sounds' and 'The End Of An Era - The Beach Boys In 1970' - a downbeat coda to the numerous glories of the previous decade. Despite the lack of any official involvement from Brian Wilson himself this has to rank as the definitive treatment of its subject on film to date thanks to the documentary's high production values and the sheer breadth of its scope.

- Grahame Bent