

## Brian Wilson – Songwriter 1969-1982

Anybody that has followed a little bit about the history of Rock & Roll – not my specialty, I warn you --, knows that Brian Wilson was and is the brain behind the success of the Beach Boys. However, as the saying goes, nobody understands the torment of genius, and Wilson's at times tormented life is an example of that. "Brian Wilson – Songwriter 1969-1982" is another fascinating and very informative documentary produced by Sexy Intellectual about this intriguing musician.

Perhaps the best way to start this review is by citing Bob Dylan's words, which are written on the front cover of the DVD, when he presumably said, "Jesus, that ear, he should donate it to the Smithsonian." Big words, big compliment coming from one of the greatest songwriters that the US ever had. This said, the film opens just when the Beach Boys enter the music market in 1961. It then moves to 1965, when Wilson concentrates in studio work, instead of touring, and how the release of the now seminal "Pet Sounds" confused the label and isolated Wilson. From then on, some issues of his life are discussed, including, for example, his problems with mental stability, depression, and drugs; recording sessions at his home studio; pressure from record labels for hits; his work with poet Stephen Kalinich and America Spring; Beach Boys work without Brian; his fading out of scene after his father's death; his "return" in the 70s; and the effect of Dr. Eugene Landy in his life.

There are segments of concerts and videos featuring some of his compositions, such as Do it Again, I Can hear Music, Our Prayer, Cabinessence, Breakaway, Add some Music to your Day, This whole World, 'Til I die, Surf's up, and many more. The making of these songs and other issues of Wilson's life are discussed by musicians Hal Blaine, Danny Hutton. Mark Volman, David Sandler, and others, as well as by engineer Stephen Desper, manager Fred Vail, and Beach Boy Bruce Johnston.

Regarded as the "band of the establishment," as opposed the counterculture, the Beach Boys certainly left a mark in history, and Brian Wilson was its main ingredient. He is still making rounds and is as popular as ever. Good for him, as his road has been long. "Brian Wilson – Songwriter 1969-1982" is an important document of the times. The DVD includes extended interviews, biographies, and much more. (UK, 2012, color and B&W, 134 min plus additional material) Reviewed on January 29, 2013. **Sexy Intellectual.**

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