www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/larry-jaffee/rolling-stones-mick-jagger\_b\_2076100.html



Perhaps not coincidentally, there's other Stones-related product to piggyback the current media attention on the band. *The Rolling Stones Under Review 1975-1983: The Ronnie Wood Years Part 1* on DVD, out 20 November courtesy of MVD, an in-depth documentary covering the career and music of the Rolling Stones between 1975 and 1983, rounds up various pundits, such as respected music scribe and rocksbackpages.com chief Barney Hoskyns.

Key to the story is how Wood gave the band new lease on life, and Richards' drug problems allowed Jagger to take the reins business-wise and creatively. There's a consensus that the band missed Mick Taylor's musicianship.

Album by album, they dissect the band's output. There are moments of insight that would only appeal to an aficionado, such as how *Goat's Head Soup* (1973) was recorded in Jamaica, but did not reflect the Glimmer Twins' love for reggae, which would emerge on later tracks like *It's Only Rock 'n' Roll's Luxury* and *Black and Blue's* "Cherry Oh Baby."

The critics seem especially kind to *Black and Blue*, which, to my ears, only had two redeeming tracks, Memory Motel and *Melody*, the latter which was helped especially by Billy Preston's influence and soulfulness. The album's lack of cohesiveness may be explained by the band auditioning Taylor's replacement during the recording. Among those who auditioned included Wood, Wayne Perkins, Harvey Mandel, Steve Marriott and Peter Frampton, but only Wood, Perkins and Mandel made the final cut of resulting tracks.

I remember having a conversation with a record-store owner as the album's *Fool to Cry* came on the radio at the time of its 1976 release, and me opining that Queen was a much-better band at the moment. There are some seldom-seen videos, such as *Undercover of the Night*, most of which no doubt are on YouTube.

The harmonica player Sugar Blue offers some firsthand insight to the making of "Miss You" and how the Stones operated in the studio.