



MUSIC



THE SOUNDS OF BLUE

Rolling Stones

"Under Review 1975-1983

The Ronnie Wood Years Pt. 1"

By **BOB PUTIGNANO**

The Stones' first major transition took place when Brian Jones passed and Mick Taylor skillfully took place and added instrumental fire (and Blues) to the band. Unfortunately Taylor split the band and along came Ronnie Wood.

This Ronnie Wood Years DVD is an amalgamation of album reviews, concert performance, critics comments (the always insightful Anthony DeCurtis, the snobbish Robert Cristgau, Barney Hoskyns, Nigel Williamson, Paul Gambaccini, narrator Thomas Arnold, Mark Paytrees, and others,) musicians chime in (Billy Preston, Sugar Blue, Keith Richards and Ronnie Wood,) and of course there's a welcomed dose of hearsay and gossip. Though I didn't care for Cristgau's negative comments about Harvey Mandel being considered a potential replacement for Mick Taylor, even though (other critics) praised Mandel for his memorable guitar work on "Hot Stuff" from their often overlooked "Black and Blue" recording. In fact there's a lot of debate about the merits of "Black and Blue" here, especially with the addition of Preston, and of course Wood.

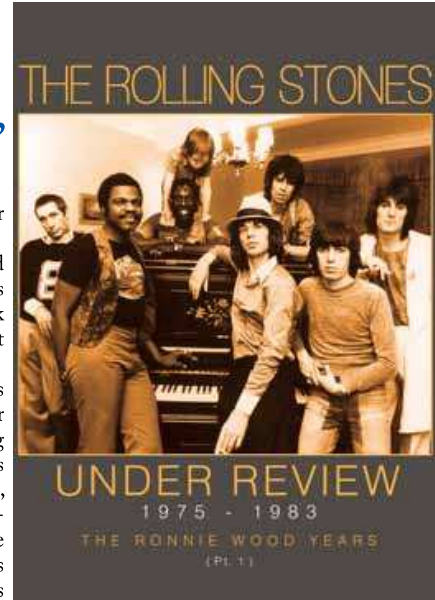
There are lengthy discussions about Keith Richards' drug decline, his inability to function with the band, and his partial cleanup. Sugar Blue talks about how he became a member of the Stones his first audition that lasted several hours, and Blue's bluesman contributions to the band. Blue also cites Wood's vitality that he brought to the band. A good deal of time is spent about Jagger's move to New York City and how the Big Apple's influenced Mick's songwriting specifically on "Some Girls" where DeCurtis smartly opines that "Some Girls" was "Jagger's album," that also had the disco vibe, remember "Miss You?" And the "Miss You" comparisons to the Bee-Gees "Saturday Night Fever," (shockingly) the bass-lines are remarkably similar, yet it's noted that the Stones perfectly melded rock, rhythm and blues into disco. Yet "Some Girls" also borrowed from the punk scene, specifically the rawness of "Respectable," and "Shattered," which are partially performed live here. There's a great segment from Saturday Night Live that's not so much about the Stones performance and more about Jagger playing himself being interviewed

on the Tom Snyder show (except it's Dan Aykroyd playing Snyder.) I also enjoyed (and forgot) about how the Stones signed Peter Tosh to their record label, and includes the SNL segment where Jagger enters and enthusiastically joins Tosh' "Don't Look Back" performance. There's also a too-short "Rock Me Baby" with Richards jamming with Woods's New Barbarians. The journalist's all line-up to voice their disdain for the "Emotional Rescue" album, and make downward comparisons to the previous "Some Girls." Which takes us to the '81 chatter of the near demise of the band, and the legendary Jagger-Richards feuding, but it's not over as the Stones recover with "Tattoo You," with their rebound smash hit "Start Me Up," later used for a Microsoft Windows ad campaign. But even with the success of "Tattoo You" the critics weren't enthusiastic about the supporting Stones tour, and DeCurtis tells us how this '81-'82 worldwide romp was their last tour for nearly seven or eight years thereafter. Like "Emotional Rescue" the 1983 "Undercover" is also torn apart by the journalist's and was considered a critical failure, showed how the

band was no longer groundbreaking and more aged, and suddenly morphs into a touring rock and roll greatest hits band.

The extras include Sugar Blue's Discovering of the Blues through the Stones, and the contributor's bio's. Blue talks about his and his mom's jazz roots, his love of Chicago Blues and recounts hearing the Stones perform "Little Red Rooster." This so called special feature cannot be more than ninety seconds long.... The bios called biogs here are nice to have as a one or two time review. Lastly the beyond DVD portion is an advertisement for other Stones related DVD's, yawn. So the extras aren't very extraordinary.

Even though this is supposed to be "The Ronnie Wood Years" DVD, this documentary is more about the entire Rolling Stones 1975-1983 era than Woodie himself, though he was



a significant addition to the band. Long story short, this DVD is an excellent compilation about a band that was obviously going through transitions, some of which were very successful, other periods were not. I enjoyed just about every aspect about this film and found that it moved along swiftly, never bored me, and held my attention in detail throughout. Is it worthwhile to purchase? I would have enjoyed a few more live performances, but for the majority; I wholeheartedly agree.

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PEOPLE

"2012 Mayor of the Year"

Asian American Council Names Mayor Ernest D. Davis

MOUNT VERNON, NY -- Earlier this month, Mayor Ernest D. Davis was recently presented with the 2012 Mayor of the Year award by the Asian American Council of New York City. Thereby, Mayor Davis joins a prestigious group of public servants and business people,

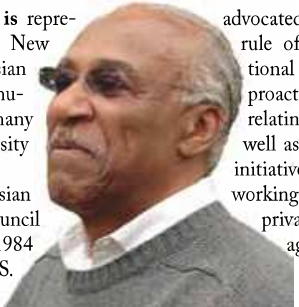
"Over the years Mount Vernon has built a great working relationship with the Asian community

and we have in fact ventured on business and cultural exchange initiatives," said Mayor Davis.

On October 26, 2012, Michael S. Limb, Executive Chairman of the Asian American Council presented Mayor Davis with the award and was accompanied by Congressman Gregory Meeks and Queens County DA, Richard A. Brown. The Asian American Council of New York is

an organization is representative of the New York City Asian American community including many of its diversity networks.

The Asian American Council was founded in 1984 by Michael S. Limb to improve the quality of life for Asian Americans living in New York. Throughout its 28 years of existence the Council has



advocated a culture of peace, rule of law and international peace. It has been proactive in matters relating to public safety as well as social and cultural initiatives and has formed working relationships with private and public agencies.

This year's honorees included Chagares S. Lopresto, Supervising Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York; James Tuller, Chief of

Transportation of the NYC Police Department; Yvette Tay-Taylor, Assistant Field Office Director, US Customs Immigration Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security; Heidi Nassauer, Chief of Passenger Operation, JFK International Airport, US Customs Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security; Richie Jan, President, RCJ Construction Services Corp as well as various City of New York Police Department personnel.