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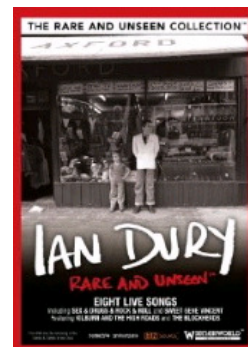
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Dury, Ian - Rare And Unseen

DVD Release Date: July 27, 2010
Approximate Run Time: 75 Minutes
Aspect Ratio: 1.33:1 Anamorphic
Rating: Unrated
Sound: Dolby 2.0 Stereo
Region Code/Format: Region 0 NTSC
DVD Released by: Wienerworld
Retail Price: \$14.95

Reviewed By: Ian Miller on August 11, 2010



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The Film

4.5/5

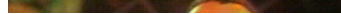
If ever there were the quintessential "British character" inhabiting not the works of Charles Dickens (or Anthony Burgess, for that matter) but rock and roll ca.1970's England, it would have to be Mr. "Hit Me With Your Rhythm Stick" himself, the Upminster Kid, the one and only Ian Robins Dury.

Possessor of the keenest and most elaborate poetic wit ever draped in a thuggish Cockney "commoner" *patois*, Dury first came to prominence (OK, infamy) in the clearly influential "pub rock" group Kilburn & the High Roads. Though exposure and a label signing pushed the group into the media, Ian apparently decided that if he were get somewhere (anywhere), a tighter group of musicians able to arrange and perform in any musical idiom he deemed necessary for any given song (as well as a higher-energy attack, better to reflect the rapidly-changing musical landscape, y'see) was an essential move. As if by complete, glorious accident, hit singles and critical acclaim followed.

Wienerworld brings you **IAN DURY - RARE AND UNSEEN™** (part of their **RARE AND UNSEEN** series, yep yep), which is basically a hodgepodge of a bunch of available (to the company) concert footage ranging in chronology from the Kilburns' '76 performance on "London Programme" (playing up to the hilt with "England's Glory") to his final appearance with U.K. talk show personalities Richard and Judy to promote his first new record in years, "Mr. Love Pants" ("Geraldine", more of which below) before his untimely demise from liver cancer at the age of 57 in 2000.

Even now, it's pretty startling to take in the Ian Dury experience for the first time: an intense-looking fellow with cuffed jeans, combat boots and cropped hair who also happens to have a withered left leg and arm due to contracting polio as a child, wearing scarves, eye make-up and a safety pin earring (avowed as the first to do so) and foghorning intricately-worded slices of slang-y (and often bawdy) character study in a manner that recalls fellow art college students The Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band (in their earthier moments, like "Tent") as much as it solidifies what would become identified - at least initially - as the "English punk vocal" style (vaguely tuneless and extreme in its Cockney-ism), always DEEP in whatever character inhabits each song.

That initial impact is then felt all the much deeper when in the myriad of interview segments that inner-weave between the electrifying performances we see Ian as an extremely thoughtful, interesting, and above all CHARMING gentleman who also happens to have the deadly combo of an acute insight on humanity and wicked sense of humor enabled by an almost cosmic flair for language (nowhere is this more present than in this phenomenal bit from "Geraldine", his ode of lust to a sandwich girl: "I know there's much more to life than the sensual side / the spiritual should come first / But when she's buttering my baguette / I think I'm going to burst"). As life (proper, wretchedly, catty as the British



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