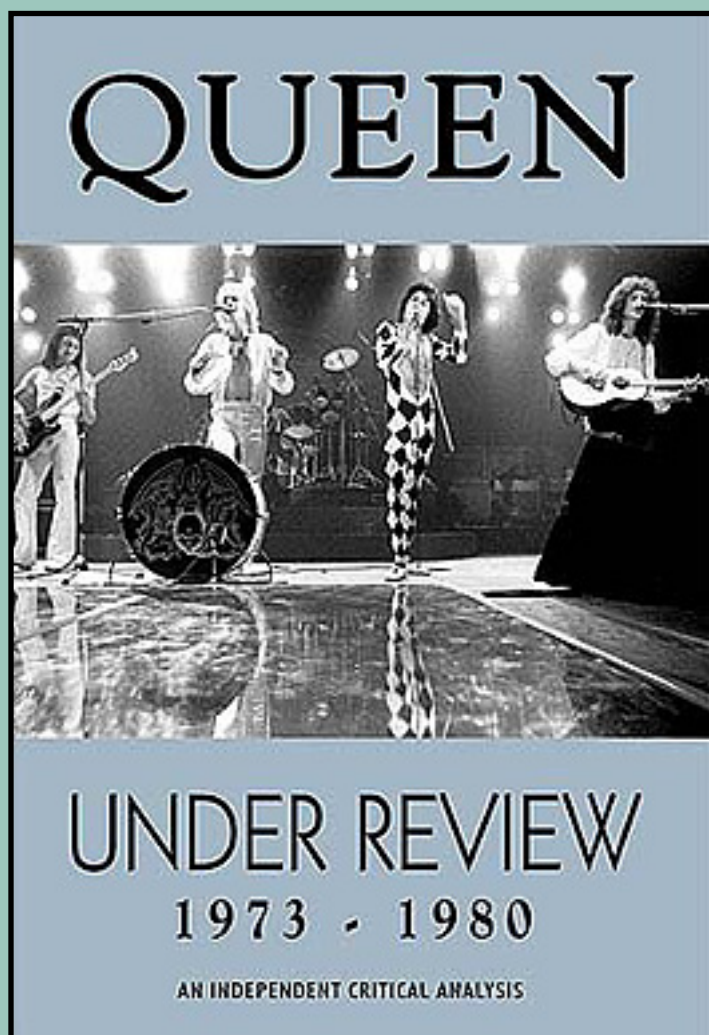


QUEEN: UNDER REVIEW (1973-1980)

An Independent Critical Analysis

Reviewed by Winslow Leach



THE REVIEW: Queen were one of the most daring and unique rock bands of the 20th Century. They not only made incredible hard rock music, they explored all kinds of genres from opera to rockabilly. In 2005, I can still put on a Queen album and feel energized by the soulful energy and talents of Freddy Mercury (Vocals) Brian May (Guitar) John Deacon (Bass) and Roger Taylor (Drums).

Queen formed in the UK in the early 1970s, they essentially started out as another art school rock band, but soon they changed their direction and became a solid rock and roll group. Their first single was "Keep Yourself Alive" from their debut album "Queen I". While the single wasn't very popular it introduced the band and

gave a clue to listeners of what was to come. Their first big hit was "Killer Queen" in 1974 from their album "Queen II". The lyrics were both classy and very catchy. Queen took awhile to find their signature sound but when they did they quickly became a band to watch and listen to.

Throughout the 1970s Queen experimented with music and never stayed in one area. Queen's adventurous musical styles can be heard on tracks like their groundbreaking operatic rock song "Bohemian Rhapsody", the fast explosion of "Stone Cold Crazy", the tongue in cheek humor of "Fat Bottomed Girls/Bicycle Race", the ultra-anthem double shot of "We Will Rock You/We Are The Champions", the disco toned heat of "Another One Bites The Dust" up to 1980 and their nod to Elvis with the 50's Rockabilly diddy "Crazy Little Thing Called Love". One thing Queen could never be accused of was not pushing the envelope. This could mostly be attributed to Freddie Mercury's larger than life personality. Freddy was truly one in a million and there will never be another frontman as incredible and bombastic as he was. Queen have influenced so many musicians and their wild, sometimes misunderstood legacy has continued to attract new listeners.

This new DVD features rare BBC footage of Queen in live and behind the scenes studio performances as well as interviews with the late Freddy Mercury. It is essentially a documentary on the band's origins, their style, their ups and downs in the pop spotlight and an examination of how they actually played the music. We get to learn all about Queen from music lovers like Malcolm Dome (Rock Author/Journalist/Queen expert), Paul Gambaccini (Broadcaster/Journalist), Simon Bradley (Guitarist/Journalist) Nigel Williamson (Editor of Uncut Magazine) and Chris Welch (ex-Melody Maker writer). These interviews give a complete picture of the band from different perspectives. One thing all the guests agree on is that Queen were simply an incredible rock band.

THE DVD

REGION: 0

STUDIO: Chrome Dreams

FILM SPECS: Presented in (1:85:1) Widescreen. Color. Picture transfer is clear, no artifacts.

EXTRAS: Queen Pop Quiz, Discography and Album Information.

AUDIO: Stereo Sound Mix.

THE FINAL WORD: Queen: Under Review is a nicely executed informative look at the first 7 years of Queen's controversial life as a band. For longtime

fans this DVD will make a great addition to your Queen catalog.

BUY QUEEN: UNDER REVIEW FROM MUSIC VIDEO DISTRIBUTORS

Featured Music: "Under Pressure" excerpt by David Bowie and Queen