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QUEEN • Under Review 1973-1980 • (MVD)

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QUEEN Under Review 1973-1980 (MVD)

If you enjoy historical accounts of a band as told by numerous people that were never IN said band happens to be your thing, then you're sure to find UNDER REVIEW 1973-1980 to be a secondhand Shangri-la. Although I've been a fan of Queen since the ripe old age of 7, my experiences with them are limited solely to the eight albums that fall within the era covered here and little else. I never saw Freddie Mercury perform live before his demise, I never picked up a songbook of Brian May's tablature and I never picked up an issue of 16 to learn Roger Taylor's vital stats or because there was a great shot of John Deacon within. With that in mind, it was quite cool to learn a bit more about the band (specifically that they had three separate contracts regarding publishing, recording and management - including funds for band salaries and equipment - with Trident Records before even recording their debut LP!), it just would be much more enlightening to hear these recollections from the gents in the band. Vintage interview footage Freddie Mercury does pop up (including some amusing quips about the Sex Pistols and "Simon Ferocious": "Did you scratch yourself properly in the mirror today?"), but the rest is left to tumble from the mouths of music journalists - KERRANG's Hades-shirted Malcolm Dome and MELODY MAKER's curiously-toothed Christopher Welch being the most down-to-earth and music historian/BBC disc jockey Paul Gambaccini being the most impressed with his own syllables. UNDER REVIEW chronologically tackles tidbits and anecdotes in regards to the albums QUEEN straight through to THE GAME, with a special emphasis/analysis (often through never-before-seen live footage) on/of "Keep Yourself Alive", "Killer Queen", "Stone Cold Crazy", the groundbreaking "Bohemian Rhapsody", "Somebody To Love", the unique double A-side "We Will Rock You / We Are The Champions", "Bicycle Race", "Don't Stop Me Now", "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" and "Another One Bites The Dust" GUITAR PLAYER's Simon Bradley takes plenty of the DVD's 103 minutes providing some insight to Mr. May's pickups, amplification, tuning and soloing styles... intriguing if you're a guitarist. I'm not. Gimme a dark, headphoned A NIGHT AT THE OPERA anytime above Gambaccini's lavender Polo shirt and grandiose flapping any ol' evening. A semi-entertaining rental at it's absolute best.



Also included is a complete discography of albums, singles, bootlegs and collections as well as The Hardest Queen Quiz Ever (I scored a "poor" 9 out of 25).

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