

DVD Review

'Syd Barrett Under Review'

In stores Feb 21st

This documentary remembers that most enigmatic of British musicians, Pink Floyd co-founder Syd Barrett. The good looking and whimsically imaginative composer recorded two albums with Pink Floyd, followed by a couple of solo albums and one offs, and then disappeared from view. He had driven the band to distraction, sometimes just staring ahead and playing a single note during concerts, or just not showing up. Years after he'd gone underground, he showed up unannounced at Abbey Road studios when the band was recording 'Shine on You Crazy Diamond', a tribute to Barrett, and watched. He reportedly went off to his mother's house in Cambridge, England, battling autism, catatonia or schizophrenia and unwittingly became the stuff of legend. Apparently he's still there. The doco fine combs through Barrett's wildly off kilter music in search of clues to his mystery, roadmaps to mental illness, looking for signs those around him should have seen, and making him a kind of hero. While I don't know if reclusive living makes him a hero, at least he doesn't have to battle his demons for the tall foreheads at E-Talk Daily or Entertainment Tonight Canada, or tow the line for money hungry label managers. This is a fascinating detective story set to music.

- Anne Brodie

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