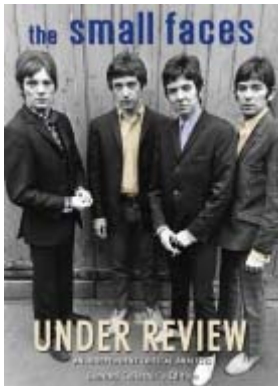


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**THE SMALL FACES**
UNDER REVIEW
CHROME DREAMS/MVD

Unauthorized rock bios usually work well in book form, but its rarely the case with DVDs. At worst, we get a slideshow of photographs, cheesy effects that were high-tech in the '80s, and a soundtrack by a different, nameless band. Thankfully, *Under Review*, isn't *that* horrid, but it's a far from complete look at this seminal British band.

Under Review has some interviews, but only with journalists and acquaintances, and we get to see live performances, but it's more often than not taken from just one TV appearance in Germany, plus there are a few video clips. Granted, it will be exciting for fans to see this rare footage, but variety is nice. And the constant listing of publishing credits is annoying—why couldn't they just wait until the end like everybody else does?

Americans are largely unaware of the Small Faces' greatness, as the group just one big hit in the States ("Itchycoo Park") and they still reside in the long shadow cast by the titans of '60s British Rock (the Beatles, the Stones, the Who, the Kinks). But their innovative blend of R&B with the aggressive pop of their peers was rivaled by few, and they were arguably better than at least two of the aforementioned behemoths anyway. Their story needs and deserves to told in a more complete fashion. But the producers of *Under Review* did a decent job with what they had available, and until a certified telling comes along this will have to do.

--Bart Bealmear

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