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DVD REVIEWS OK 360 DEGREES

“Syd Barrett: Under Review”

Syd Barrett was the “Crazy Diamond” Pink Floyd was singing to on the 1975 album “Wish You Were Here.” They owed him the tribute, since the mad boy genius founded the band and fronted it on lead vocals and guitar for the first two years of its existence, forging its iridescently eccentric early psych-pop sound and penning the childlike acid-fantasy lyrics that made Top 20 hits out of “Arnold Layne” and “See Emily Play,” and turned their debut album, “The Piper at the Gates of Dawn,” into a critical and commercial success. He even gave the group its name, from two obscure bluesmen, Pink Anderson and Floyd Council.

But by the end of the 1967 Summer of Love, too much acid and fame soon began to take its toll on Barrett’s already fragile mental health, causing erratic behavior that necessitated his exit from the band. While Pink Floyd would go on to become one of the most successful art-rock bands of the ’70s, Barrett would record only two solo albums — the prototypical lo-fi gem “The Madcap Laughs” and the more polished though no-less fractured “Barrett” (both 1970) — before slipping into seclusion, never to perform publicly again.

“Syd Barrett: Under Review” is a fascinating look at the tragically short-lived career of this damaged British flower-child, complete with analyses from noted rock journalists, a rare TV interview with Barrett and performance footage of songs.

— Gene Triplett