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Good ones from Lilys, Small Faces

By Ricky Flake

"Under Review," The Small Faces (Music Video Distributors/Chrome Dreams)

• 4 STARS

This Jan. 24 release celebrates one of the most under-appreciated British bands of the early to mid-1960s. Steve Marriott (guitar/vocals), Ronnie Lane (bass/vocals), Kenny Jones (drums) and Ian McLagen (keyboards) were Mod R&B fanatics who quickly evolved their own striking style. All four members of the band were short and slight, but they were giants in a period ruled mostly by three big bands.

Initially managed by Don Arden and recording for Decca (they moved to Immediate when they left Arden), they quickly evolved from hard-hitting R&B to the psychedelic sounds that mark their stateside hit, "Itchycoo Park."

That tune was recorded for their most successful album, "Ogden's Nut Gone Flake," with its unusual round sleeve; but most of the critics here feel that their first Immediate Records album was the best long-player of their brief three year career.

The program, though, centers on the band's singles released during this 1965-68 span (including the great "All or Nothing"). There is such progress from early rawness to music hall bawdiness to psychedelia and beyond! It's no wonder the band burned out fast and split into two other memorable bands, The Faces and Humble Pie.

DVD extras include a Small Faces trivia quiz and discography. Ask for this one locally or visit www.dvdnote.com.

Coming soon...In upcoming weeks, we'll feature reviews of a tribute to the late singer-songwriter Elliot Smith, featuring his songs performed by various artists from his Portland home; and, a new CD by Luke West, who has recently relocated to the Coast from Tulsa.

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