

SYD BARRET UNDER REVIEW (Chrome Dreams) – DVD

The story of Syd Barret is certainly one of rock's most intriguing, and definitely worthy of an exploratory documentary. As the founder and undisputed leader of Pink Floyd, Barret was one of Britain's leading pop personalities, and the fact that in a very short span he all but disappeared under a reefer cloud, leaving a series of wild fables for journalists to salivate over, just increased the myth. The story presented here offers nothing new that various tomes haven't dissected, through interviews by some of those writers, but it does contain a good dose of archival film and television footage of the early Floyd that is quite enthralling. Early Beatles style film snippets for their psychedelic singles (we call 'em videos now), actual concert footage from that era, and television interviews, show all facets of the various Barret personas: the brilliant musician, the campy showman, the serious band leader, the absentee stage performer, and the spaced out drug casualty. It would have been nice to hear from the rest of the Floyd members, but you can't always have everything.

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