



Queen

Under Review: 1980-1991

Chrome Dreams

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This is the second installment of the Under Review series to feature rock and roll legends Queen. Having been a teenager in the mid to late eighties this installment certainly intrigued me. While Queen's popularity waned greatly in the United States during these years, albums like *The Miracle* and *Innuendo* (which would turn out to be Freddie Mercury's fond farewell to this world) still rank among my favorites of all time. While I love the band's innovative work from the seventies, I have always felt like their work in the eighties got the shaft. Apparently many journalists looking back now agree. You see what happened there? I guess teenagers do know a thing or two after all.

The DVD features an album by album analysis of the band's albums, and a few "important moments" such as the band's re-emergence at the first Live Aid spectacular (hailed by rock critics as the best live performance of all time). Analyzers include *Classic Rock* magazine contributor, music author, Malcolm Dome longtime friend of Freddie Mercury Paul Gambaccini, author and journalist Daryl Easlea, ex- *Melody Maker* editor Chris Welch, Virgin Radio DJ Ben Jones, and others.

It's always interesting to hear what other people thought about a certain album then and likewise compare it to their views now. For the most part these journalists admit to harsh reception of albums due to misunderstanding of where the band was coming from or what they were trying to do. Most of them have changed their tunes (no pun intended) over time, particularly in regards to the band's album *Hot Space*. On the other hand you can't escape the fact that this is all speculation. As in all the DVD's in this series, it features no interview footage with any of the remaining members of Queen. While these journalists have a great deal more insider perspective than you or I, they are still outsiders for all intents and purposes.

Overall I really enjoyed watching this. It's great to see these albums finally find some credibility with critics, even if it did take some time. If you take a look at such massive eighties/early nineties Queen singles as "I Want to Break Free," "Hammer to Fall," "One Vision," and "The Show Must Go On" though it is resoundingly evident that the fans never stopped loving Queen. The world lost a superb musician when Freddie Mercury's body succumbed to AIDS, thankfully though his words and music have left future generations with a lot to talk about and this DVD is proof.

Reviewed by: **Mark Fisher**

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