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Tim Buckley's "House" to Debut on DVD

Fred Mills
February 7, 2007

In 2005 a bit of a stir was caused among Tim Buckley fans when a bootleg DVD, *The Starsailor is Coming Home*, surfaced containing super-rare live clips of the legendary late folk/jazz bard in concert. Issued by the so-called "Mastertop" family of underground labels, the 90-minute disc compiled most of the known Buckley video material that had been circulating over the years among VHS and lapsed BETA collectors, and among the choice segments were Buckley's 1967 solo appearance on *The Monkees* doing "Song to the Siren," a pair of '74 clips from the BBC's "Old Grey Whistle Test" and the entire Sept. 15, 1970, broadcast of the PBS-TV program *Boboquivari* which featured Buckley and his band performing before cameras on a small Los Angeles soundstage.

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As these underground artifacts go, however, the video and audio quality of the DVD was subject to the vicissitudes of time and generation loss. Now, however, Music Video Distributors has announced the imminent release of the first-ever authorized Buckley DVD collection. Titled *My Fleeting House*, it's due on May 15.

According to Music Video Distributors, "The DVD has eleven full-length songs and three partial performances. This DVD also features insightful interviews with Larry Beckett (co-writer of many songs with Buckley), Lee Underwood (Buckley's guitarist) and David Browne (author of *Dream Brother: The Lives of Jeff and Tim Buckley*). The footage spans his entire career, from 1967 to 1974, and includes unreleased video of interaction with Buckley on The Steve Allen Show (1969) and on WITF's The Show (1970). The footage is taken from various television programs from 1967 to 1974 right up to the time of his death in 1975. All but two of the musical clips are unreleased. As an additional oddity, the clip of Buckley being interviewed on The Steve Allen Show includes Jayne Meadows complimenting Buckley on his hair.

"*My Fleeting House* is the first-ever authorized collection of Buckley's visual performances. Several segments on this new collection have not been seen for over thirty years. MVD Visual has secured the best possible, first-generation video sources for the compilation, including footage from American, British, and Dutch television, and also a forgotten feature film. This DVD has the full approval of the Estate of Tim Buckley."

Buckley, who died of an overdose in 1975, issued nine ground-breaking albums during his lifetime; since then a number of posthumous collections of unreleased material along with greatest hits collections have come out (most of them via Rhino). This DVD will no doubt fuel the flames of Buckley fandom even more, and hopefully will help further introduce him to a new generation of acolytes; while there is necessarily some track overlap with the bootleg DVD discussed above—and, unfortunately, the entire *Boboquivari* show is not included, just two clips—to finally have this material in pristine video quality is quite a gift to fans.

Included with the 105-minute DVD is a 12-page booklet containing rare photos, an album-by-album review by Underwood, Beckett, and Browne, and Beckett (also a poet) reciting "Song to the Siren."

The tracklisting is as follows:

Inside Pop – “No Man Can Find the War”

Late Night Line Up – “Happy Time”

Late Night Line Up – “Morning Glory”

Old Grey Whistle Test – “Dolphins”

The Monkees Show – “Song to the Siren”

Greenwich Village – “Who Do You Love”

Dutch TV – “Happy Time”

Dutch TV – “Sing a Song for You”

Music Video Live – “Sally Go Round the Roses”

Boboquivari – “Blue Melody”

Boboquivari – “Venice Beach (Music Boats by the Bay)”

The Show – “I Woke Up”

The Show – “Come Here Woman”

The Christian Licorice Store – “Pleasant Street”

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