

Jersey Days



April 2007

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Tim Buckley - My Fleeting House (dvd)

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April 25, 2007*

Tim Buckley
My Fleeting House/MVD

Tim Buckley was a tragically underappreciated singer/songwriter who died in 1975. Although he is fondly remembered by a core constituency of aficionados, these days he is more often recalled as the late Jeff Buckley's father. This new DVD aims to burnish the older Buckley's reputation while illustrating the lasting impact that he has on today's music.

The filmmakers employ commentary by two key players in the Buckley legacy, co-songwriter Larry Beckett, and longtime Buckley guitarist Lee Underwood, as well as biographer David Browne (Dream Brothers: The Lives and Music of Jeff and Tim Buckley). Their comments are interspersed with a series of largely unreleased performance segments that are presented in chronological order. We see Buckley move from folk troubadour, performing on The Monkees television show, to jazz innovator, before settling in as a middle-of-the-road folk rocker in the years preceding his death.

Much is made of Buckley's 1970 album Starsailor. The album, with its echoes of Miles Davis, was roundly rejected by his audience at the time of its release. But the performances of songs from this era, including "I Woke Up," "Come Here Woman" and the unreleased "Venice Beach (Music Boats By The Bay)," are the most revelatory moments in the film. Although he never really knew his father, it was this music that had the biggest impact on Jeff Buckley.

Tim Buckley was a well-known artist in his time, but his restless nature never allowed him to become a major star. He never made a lot of money. He just wasn't willing to stand in one place long enough. The drugs that took his life are never mentioned here. These performances make it clear that it is time for a reappraisal of his career.

—by Ken Shane

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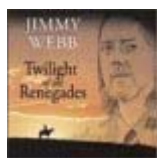
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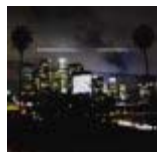
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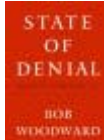
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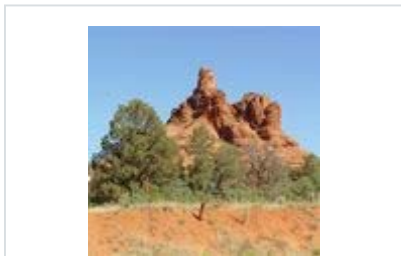
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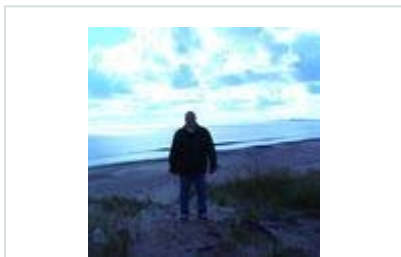
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