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DVD: Tim Buckley "My Fleeting House" (MVD Visual)

1960s folk troubadour Tim Buckley never had much success on the charts — partly because he was too innovative a vocalist, never content to be pigeonholed to any one genre, especially that of a pop star. During his brief career (1966 to 1975), before his death at 28 from a drug overdose, Buckley remained true to his sensual muse — drawing creatively from jazz, soul, funk and blues, while occasionally delivering spellbinding, sadly beautiful poems in song that still earn him fans today.

This DVD is a true find for any Buckley fan, as it collects nearly all of his unreleased, vintage television appearances (11 full songs). They're uniformly great performances characterized by passionate intensity and Buckley's gorgeous, androgynous voice that had far greater range than that of most of his contemporaries. From "The Monkees" and Dutch TV to "The Steve Allen Show," you can watch the music selections alone or with introductory commentary from Larry Beckett (co-writer of many of his songs), guitarist Lee Underwood and author David Browne. There are some old TV interviews with Buckley filled with hippie platitudes, but these are far less illuminating than the intimate songs themselves, which deserve a second listen. ****

- Brent Baldwin