

New generation can appreciate Jeff's dad, Tim Buckley

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BY TOM LOUNGES Times Correspondent

This columnist long has been a fan of the late Tim Buckley's music.

I discovered him after my love and respect of Bob Dylan led me to explore other like-minded troubadours of the era, such as Tom Paxton, John Prine, Phil Ochs, and Buckley.

Buckley may have begun as a folkie, but he soon morphed into an experimental performer who incorporated jazz, psychedelia, funk, soul and avant-garde rock into a short career that spanned 1966 to 1975.

Given the wealth of amazing music Buckley created during his incredibly short life -- he was just 28 when he died on June 28, 1975, after snorting heroin at a friend's house after drinking heavily and having consumed barbiturates -- I find it sad that Tim Buckley is most famous these days for being the father of cult rocker Jeff Buckley, whose own career was cut tragically short in 1997, when he drowned in the muddy Mississippi River.

Jeff Buckley proved the apple did not fall far from the tree with his three-and-a-half-octave-range voice and the experimental nature of his music.

The legions of Jeff Buckley fans really owe it to themselves to discover his father Tim Buckley's music.

And the perfect opportunity to do so happens at 1 p.m. Saturday downtown at Chicago's Old Town School of Folk Music (4544 N. Lincoln Ave.).

That is where a one-time free public screening will be held of "My Fleeting House," presented by the MVD Entertainment Group. This 105-minute documentary is the first-ever officially released Tim Buckley DVD collection, authorized by the Buckley estate.

Despite there being nine studio albums, three live albums, and many "Best of..." compilations, "My Fleeting House" is the first-ever authorized visual collection of Buckley's performances. Several segments on this new collection have not been seen for more than 30 years.

Much of the footage is taken from various television programs from 1967 right up to the time of Buckley's death in 1975. It spans his entire career and includes unreleased footage of Buckley from "The Steve Allen Show" (1969) and from WITF's "The Show" (1970).

Adding insight to the music and performances, the 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").

To buy the \$19.95 list-priced DVD, being released on May 15, visit www.timbuckleydvd.com.

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