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'Tim Buckley: My Fleeting House'

Master Mix DVD

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THRIVE

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Tim Buckley: My Fleeting House

Starring Tim Buckley



MVD Visual

\$19.95 list price

The Skinny

Before Jeff Buckley, there was his father Tim, an underappreciated singer-songwriter who tried on baroque folk, avant-garde jazz rock and R&B before a fatal overdose in 1975 at the age of 28. This authorized DVD compiles rare performances and TV appearances along with new interviews.

A Tiny Taste

Two TV clips show the '60s generation gap in full view: One of Buckley conversing with actress Jayne Meadows on "The Steve Allen Show," the other a CBS special, "Inside Pop," that has out-of-touch voiceover commentary by host Leonard Bernstein.

What You'll Love

As the 11 full-length song clips attest, Tim Buckley was an engaging performer with poetic sensibilities and an aura of tragedy about him — sounds familiar, right? Indeed, the similarities between Tim and Jeff Buckley are striking, and it's eerie how much they look and sound alike.

What You Won't

The interviewees are writing partner Larry Beckett, guitarist Lee Underwood and biographer David Browne. Beckett and Underwood are dull, overly fawning and surprisingly academic and pompous. Where are the musicians Buckley influenced? Or his first wife and Jeff's mother, Mary Guibert?

P.S.

Jeff Buckley, who was 8 at the time of Tim's death and living with his mother and stepfather, kept his dad's legacy at arm's length, stating in a 1993 interview with the New York Times he had never really known him.