

New DVDs tell the story of Pink Floyd and

This week, we're spinning a pair of "must-own" packages featuring insight into the rarely illuminated saga of Syd Barrett and Pink Floyd.

"The Pink Floyd and Syd Barrett Story" (Voiceprint/Zeit Media Ltd.)

There are several videos currently available claiming to uncover the "real" or "authoritative" story on the formation of Pink Floyd. The major difference between all of those and this highly recommended biopic is that director John Edginton



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Music

goes straight to the source for his in-depth, no-holds barred video chronology. He sits down for extended discussions with surviving Floyd members David Gilmour, Nick Mason, Roger Waters, Richard Wright, as well as short-lived pre-fame member Bob Klose. These participants are among those who provide first-person accounts of the band during what was arguably their most innovative period. There are also comments from mid-1960s manager Peter Jenner and Joe Boyd. The latter not only owned London's infamous psychedelic UFO Club, but produced the Floyd's inaugural single "Arnold Layne" b/w "Candy and a Currant Bun" as well.

At the heart of this two-disc DVD package is the roughly hour-long "Pink Floyd and Syd Barrett Story," which aired on the BBC in 2002 and more recently on the VH1 Classic cable network.

Disc Two contains close to three additional hours of extras, including off-the-cuff acoustic performances of solo Barrett sides by Robyn Hitchcock ("Dominoes" and "It Is Obvious") and Blur's Graham Coxon ("Love You") — both of whom participated in the main program as well. However, the real bonuses are unedited candid interviews with messieurs Gilmour, Mason, Wright and — clocking in at nearly an hour and 45 minutes — is a very

emotive and profoundly personal conversation with Roger Waters.

Pink Floyd — "The Piper at the Gates of Dawn 40th Anniversary Edition" (EMI Records)

Few debuts have had the cultural significance or impact of "The Piper." Four decades on, it is still one of the most innovative and least-dated projects to have been issued during the



Summer Of Love. To mark its 40th anniversary, EMI has put together this triple-disc box set. Disc One and

Two contain newly remastered versions in mono and stereo — which are distinctly different throughout — and a third disc of rarities.

"The Piper" remains an epic for numerous reasons, not the

least of which is its status as only Pink Floyd project with full involvement from Syd Barrett, who practically wrote the album by himself.

Demonstrating Barrett's undeniable gift are songs that illate from the childlike innocence of "Mathilda Mother," "The Gnome" and "Bike" to the sonic insanity of "Astronomy Domine," "Pow R Toc H" or the peaceful piety of the I Ching inspired "Chapter 24."

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