

DVD Review

Pink Floyd

Pink Floyd/Syd Barrett

The Pink Floyd And Syd Barrett Story

ZeitMedia (DVD ZM1)

Grade: ★★★

The reissue of this DVD expands the set to two discs: one with the main feature, the other with bonus material.

"The Pink Floyd And Syd Barrett Story" aired on British television in 2001 and was released on DVD in 2003, when the group's visionary co-founder, Syd Barrett, was still alive (Barrett died in 2006). The short film (around 50 minutes) covers an equally short period in his life — basically his time with Pink Floyd, from the group's launch to the last time members of his band saw him, at the sessions for *Wish You Were Here*.

The story is nicely fleshed out with clips from Peter Whitehead's film "Tonight Let's All Make Love In London," excerpts from the "Arnold Layne" promo film and clips from the self-explanatory short "Syd's First Trip." What makes the film more authoritative is that the other members of Pink Floyd — Roger Waters, Rick Wright, Nick Mason, and the man who replaced Barrett in the Floyd line-up, David Gilmour — are all

interviewed, along with others who knew and/or worked with Barrett.

The comments from the band members are especially heartfelt; clearly disturbed by Barrett's increasingly erratic behavior, they could do little more than stand by and watch helplessly. As there's little interview footage of Barrett, either during his years with Pink Floyd or after, he's able to remain an enigmatic character. One does wish the film had gone into Barrett's post-Floyd years in a little more depth, with more details about the recording sessions of his solo albums, and his short-lived band Stars.

The second disc has unedited interviews with Waters, Wright, Mason and Gilmour, among with musical performances from Robyn Hitchcock and Graham Coxon. While fuller interviews are nice to have, some of musical performances are already bonus features on the first disc; would that the bonus material have included the full-length promo films of early Floyd singles like "Arnold Layne!" Nonetheless, this set provides a nice introduction to Barrett that will probably have you digging in your record collection to investigate his music further.

— Gillian G. Gaar