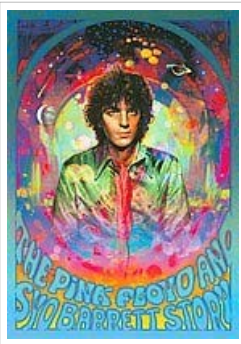


## Book, Music, DVD & Movie Reviews

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2007

**Meaning can be found in everything, even in a video that tells the story of a rock band and a founder's descent into madness.**



The Pink Floyd and Syd Barrett Story  
(Deluxe Edition)

Available through: MVD Visual  
(<http://www.mvdb2b.com/>)

Time: 203 minutes

The Pink Floyd and Syd Barrett Story is a documentary that traces the development of Pink Floyd from its earliest days when it was led by Syd Barrett, lead vocalist, lead guitar player

and initially the principal writer. His innovative nature helped to pioneer the band's early psychedelic sound. Sadly, his use of LSD and other drugs may have exacerbated an undiagnosed medical condition that led to his demise and inability to continue with the band after 1968.

After one weekend in particular, in which he may have overdosed on acid, it was evident to the other band members that Barrett had changed. The once ebullient bandleader looked the same, but it was as if he was no longer there. As band member Roger Waters wrote in "Shine on You Crazy Diamond":

Remember when you were young, you shone like the sun  
Shine on you crazy diamond  
Now there's a look in your eyes, like black holes in the sky

One of the most touching moments of the film is the display of some black and white photographs taken of Barrett by a friend after Barrett had moved back home to live in his mother's basement. Syd still looked the same but his face says so much. You can see the pain and sadness. It's almost as if he's thinking, "I know I've lost it but I don't know how to be whole again."

As hard as it may have been for the band to go through Barrett's dysfunction—and they tried to help—it makes me want to be more compassionate towards those who suffer. It reminds me of the story that F. W. Boreham tells of a meeting between J. J. Doke and Mahatma Gandhi.

On the wall of Mr. Gandhi's office hung a beautiful picture of Jesus; and the moment that Mr. Doke's eyes rested upon it, he felt that he and his new friend were bound by a most sacred tie. "I want you," he said to Mr. Gandhi, "to consider me your friend in this struggle. If," he added, with a glance at the picture on the wall, "if I have learned any lesson from the life of Jesus it is that one should share and lighten the load of those who are heavily laden."

"How I Wish You Were" was another song that the band performed in remembrance of Barrett. How I wish he could have been helped toward wholeness. Perhaps he found some measure of peace in his life. Questions arise and this film wisely chooses not to try and answer them all.

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## About Me

Michael Dalton

Eureka, California,  
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I live in Eureka, which is located on the coast of Northern California. I am about 250 miles north of San Francisco. Our redwood trees are some of the tallest in the world. If you like books, I sell books of all kinds at [abebooks.com](http://abebooks.com) under the bookstore name "Dalton Books." In March 2007 I expanded into publishing with the printing of "Lover of Life: F. W. Boreham's Tribute to His Mentor." Geoff Pound and I formed John Broadbanks Publishing for the purpose of bring Boreham's writings back into print. I post book and music reviews at The Phantom Tollbooth, Amazon and one of my blogs. I like to read, write, walk, swim, watch movies or favorite programs, and listen to music.

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