



- [Home](#)
- |
- [CDs](#)
- |
- [Live Performances](#)
- |
- [Interviews](#)
- |
- [Books](#)
- |
- [DVDs](#)
- |
- [Venues](#)
- |
- [Miscellaneous](#)
- |
- [Contact PPR](#)
- |
- [Links](#)

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October 15, 2007

## [The Syd Barrett and Pink Floyd Story Revealed](#)

DVD review: *The Pink Floyd and Syd Barrett Story* (Zeit Media)

By Rachel Heisler

“We all still desperately miss him” - Rick Wright



#### *The Pink Floyd and Syd Barrett Story*

is a fast-moving overview of the history of one of rock’s most influential bands, Pink Floyd. The story of the band, from before their move to London in the early ’60s as youngsters, through to and its original songwriter, singer and musical mastermind, Syd Barrett, is told through interviews with bandmates Roger Waters, Nick Mason, Rick Wright and David Gilmour, friends, lovers, other musicians, etc. Video clips show Barrett in various settings and the band making early music videos. Snippets of Barrett’s best songs, including “Bike,” “Interstellar Overdrive,” “See Emily Play” and “Jugband Blues,” are scattered throughout the DVD, but it is the anecdotes from those who knew him best that make the biggest impression.

By 1967, Barrett’s use of LSD had done serious damage. “Syd was a changed person,” Gilmour said. The band’s U.S. tour later that year ended in disaster, with Barrett’s behavior becoming so erratic that the tour was cancelled. It was then that Gilmour stepped in and began learning Barrett’s parts, while Barrett was still in the band. In January 1968, the band stopped picking Barrett up for rehearsal, and from that day forward the Floyd was forever changed.



Barrett did end up writing more music and recording more albums, including *The Madcap Laughs*. None of Barrett’s solo works ever became as popular as his works with the Floyd, but they remain underground cult classics.

If anyone can watch *The Pink Floyd and Syd Barrett Story*

without tearing up or blatantly crying, check with a psychiatrist. Barrett’s story is one of the most unfortunate of rock history, and listening to hear his best friends discuss his short-lived, now lost talent and creativity is heart breaking. The DVD’s tone is a somber one, though the occasional humorous stories make for very needed moments of comic relief.

One wonders if it was the drugs that made Barrett spiral out of control, or were the drugs an escape from a mind that was out of control from the get go? It’s a catch 22 to which there will never be a clear answer now that Syd has passed on to the other side, after decades of living in seclusion.

Rest in peace, Syd, we hope you found happiness and are finally content.

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