



Shared Darkness
A Communal Life in Film and DVD, Examined



• [Back to Main Page](#)

• Quicksearch

 Include comments

November 2007						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

• Category Archives

- [Amusements \(41\)](#)
- [DVD Reviews \(436\)](#)
- [Ephemera \(489\)](#)
- [Film Reviews \(244\)](#)
- [Interviews \(163\)](#)
- [Irritations \(65\)](#)
- [Musings \(232\)](#)
- [Old Made New \(37\)](#)

• Recent Comments

1. Bernie on [Advance Thoughts on The Mist](#)
11/7/2007
2. Jeremy D on [Now That's a Party...](#)
11/6/2007
3. Kevin Karstens on [Advance Thoughts on The Mist](#)
11/5/2007
4. Golden Touch on [Tom Cruise Gets Pimp-Slapped](#)
11/5/2007
5. TheaterGoer on [Cinematheque Sounds Transformers Alarm](#)
11/5/2007
6. Stu on [Bee Movie](#)
11/3/2007



The Pink Floyd and Syd Barrett Story



This entry was posted on 9/28/2007 1:00 AM and is filed under [DVD Reviews](#).

The story of Pink Floyd wunderkind Syd Barrett is at once a sad and familiar one, but a story still fused with its own alluring mysteriousness. That tale, as well as the formation and rise of the famous band, get a fine overview in this engaging mid-form (which is to say halfway between short-form and long-form) 2003 documentary from producer-director John Edginton, a title which includes interviews with all the members of Pink Floyd.



The Pink Floyd and Syd Barrett Story retells the fascinating story of the **launch of one of the most influential bands in rock 'n' roll** — named on a whim for an album by obscure bluesmen Pink Anderson and Floyd Council — **and the drug-induced breakdown of their original songwriter and lead singer.** As one of the most famous creators and characters of the psychedelic era, Barrett conducted no interviews and released no music between the early 1970s and his recent passing, yet his self-imposed anonymity still fascinates fans old and new. The prodigiously talented original songwriter for Pink Floyd was only with the band for a vibrant three years when he left in 1968, yet when the group released their

7. Goldsmith on [On Zodiac's DVD Controversy](#)
11/1/2007
8. Truth: Look it Up on [Saw IV](#)
11/1/2007
9. Scott on [Saw IV](#)
10/31/2007
10. ESL on [Air-Quote Superheroes Sniff Fame](#)
10/29/2007

• Monthly Archives

- [November 2007 \(6\)](#)
- [October 2007 \(87\)](#)
- [September 2007 \(99\)](#)
- [August 2007 \(112\)](#)
- [July 2007 \(110\)](#)
- [June 2007 \(103\)](#)
- [May 2007 \(82\)](#)
- [April 2007 \(74\)](#)
- [March 2007 \(61\)](#)
- [February 2007 \(67\)](#)
- [January 2007 \(79\)](#)
- [December 2006 \(61\)](#)
- [November 2006 \(69\)](#)
- [October 2006 \(62\)](#)
- [September 2006 \(51\)](#)
- [August 2006 \(75\)](#)
- [July 2006 \(67\)](#)
- [June 2006 \(57\)](#)
- [May 2006 \(52\)](#)
- [April 2006 \(55\)](#)

• Blogroll

- [A Critical Moment](#)
- [FilmStew](#)
- [Screen International](#)
- [Vulture](#)

• Syndicate

- [Entries Atom 1.0](#)
- [Comments Atom 1.0](#)
- [Entries RSS 2.0](#)
- [Comments RSS 2.0](#)

greatest hits album in 2001 Barrett's fingerprints were on over a fifth of the tracks.

The film incorporates rare early footage of the band performing, including a live show at the UFO Club, and an appearance with former landlord Mick Leonard on *Tomorrows World*. Roger Waters, Dave Gilmour, Nick Mason and Rick Wright retell how Barrett's disconnection from reality happened rather quickly, yet still haunted the band for many years, informing tracks like "Shine on You Crazy Diamond" and, of course, "Wish You Were Here." Their recollections are candid ("Should I roar with laughter or try to kill him?" muses Mason at one point, then adding, "I don't remember being overcome with compassion") and sometimes downright harsh, particularly as Gilmour was groomed to take over for an unreliable Barrett. Intervention and drug treatment programs, it seems, were not part of the 1960s London musical scene.

Running around 50 minutes, the movie at times feels like it could use a bit more fleshing out, either from others who knew Barrett outside of the band (an old girlfriend provides key reminiscences, for instance, including the revelation that "Arnold Layne," the tune that helped the group first ink a record deal with EMI in 1967, was actually about a local panty-sniffer) or critical-minded music authorities. Still, **there's no denying the fascinating value of the insights and anecdotes that the major players all provide.** Brief guitarist Bob Klose even half-jokingly notes that the band "needed me to leave" to hone their signature sound.

The film is presented in widescreen, with superlative audio in the form of complementary Dolby digital 5.1 and DTS surround sound tracks. Supplemental extras on the first disc include a few interview outtakes, and though these seem to be mixed a bit lower, they include Gilmour's thoughts on "Wish You Were Here," and him noodling around on what he recalls as the actual guitar that birthed the original riff. There are performances, too: Blur guitarist Graham Coxon, who talks up "Bike" during the movie, performs "Love You," while Robyn Hitchcock performs "Dominoes" and "It Is Obvious." There's also a detailed text biography of Barrett. **The release's second disc contains the supplemental jackpot, however, with more than two hours of unedited interview footage** between an offscreen Edginton and his subjects. Overall, this great disc strikes a great balance; it's accessible enough for casual music fans looking to learn more about Pink Floyd, while the high quotient of the never-before-seen footage (there's even some home video footage of one of Barrett's first LSD experiences) is impressive enough to woo longtime fans as well. [To purchase the film via Amazon, click here.](#) **B+ (Movie) A- (Disc)**

What did you think of this article?

- Liked
 Disliked
 No Opinion

Trackbacks

[Trackback specific URL for this entry](#)

- No trackbacks exist for this entry.

Comments

- No comments exist for this entry.

Leave a comment

Submitted comments will be subject to moderation before being displayed.



Enter the above security code (required)

Name

Email (will not be published)

Podcasts
RSS 2.0

• **Subscribe**

Blog Entry
Subscribe



Website

Your comment is 0 characters **limited to 3000 characters.**

- Subscribe to this entry
- Subscribe to this blog
- Remember me



Copyright 2007. <http://SHAREDDARKNESS.COM>. All rights reserved.