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SKYSCRAPER

THE PINK FLOYD AND SYD BARRETT STORY

Dir. John Edginton DVD – Otmoor / Zeit Media

Those interested in Syd Barrett will have few complaints about this compelling documentary, other than it doesn't add a whole lot to what was already known about the cult legend. Originally shown on BBC television, the film is professionally made and well-sequenced. The most appealing feature, for many fans, will be the interviews with the other members of Pink Floyd, including the recently departed Richard Wright and guitarist Bob Klose, an early member who left after recording only a demo. Viewers get a strong sense of the difficulties the band had in understanding and coping with Syd Barrett's coming unbuttoned. The film does a good job showing how Barrett, the strongest creative force during the band's early years, did not only conjure up new sounds with the electric guitar – establishing the band's distinctive style and writing, playing, and singing on some of Pink Floyd's best material – but he also provided the other band members with inspiration for over a decade following his departure into madness, gardening, and cult-hero status. "Shine on You Crazy Diamond," "Wish You Were Here," and *The Wall* were all about, or somehow inspired by, Syd Barrett. John Edginton's documentary also includes interviews and performances with Robyn Hitchcock, manifestly influenced by Barrett, and ex-Blur guitarist Graham Coxon, whose love of Barrett's sound can be heard in such Blur tracks as "Miss America" and "Far Out." (Michael Snyder)

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