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## FESTIVALS 06



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### Soft Machine Legacy

*In-Akustik*

Acid rock legends show their age...

The latter half of the 60's must've been a frightening time to the old guard. Everything was changing, mutating, evolving into something new, bold and different. The newly techni-coloured world had become a mirror image of itself, and those left on the black n white side would be sadly left behind. People didn't want short, sharp 3 minute pop songs about broken hearts anymore, instead they wanted a style of music that could ape the mind expanding effects of the new drugs being experimented with in this new liberal world of the 60's.

The Soft Machine along with Pink Floyd would spearhead a scene that's fingerprints would be left on everything from funk (bands like Sly & The Family Stone and Funkadelic would use these alien like sounds and the mind expanding socio-politics of this style to reinvigorate the already stagnating genre) to dance music (aciiiiid anyone?) as well as frighten the moral majority so much so that certain members would be placed on the MI5's files, and others would be constantly harassed by the police. The sound incorporated so much, and yet sounded completely alien at the same time; the loose-backed riffing of R n B, the far reaching noodling of free-form jazz, the crescendo building streaming of classical music and the dark introspection of folk music. The bands line-up featured Robert Wyatt and Kevin Ayers, both as important to the story as Sid Barrat was to the Floyd, they took the basic form and mutated it into something genuinely beguiling and exciting.

Unfortunately this live recording features the band minus it's key members, at an age where edge has expired, featuring songs that seem somewhat tired. So much for that legacy!

By **Jeremy Chick**, Editor In Chief

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