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[Duke Ellington – Reminiscing in Tempo \(MVD Visual\) DVD](#)

By

[Upchuck Undergrind](#)

– April 21, 2011 **Posted in:** [Reviews](#)

“Reminiscing In Tempo” is a fairly unique documentary. Rather than take the typical objective/journalist approach, as with many music documentaries, this is obviously, on the surface, a very personal film. Not that objective documentaries inherently lack a passion for their subject. I suspect the opposite must be true. But here, the love is worn on the sleeve and the film takes a very, very personal look at Duke. The usual bio information is here, but that’s not what sets this doc apart. It’s a strange brew, admittedly, but that’s because of the distinctive people we get to meet. See, Ellington’s sister hosts a birthday party for her brother every year (during his life he refused to celebrate his birthday). And it’s an eclectic mix of folks, the real standout in the crowd being Ellington’s sister herself. In addition to an invite into this family and friends affair, there is also footage, not seen before, of a 1968 performance from Ellington’s Mexican tour that year and the DVD also sports an original suite that was never recorded for commercial release. “Reminiscing In Tempo” isn’t intended to be a comprehensive documentary on the Duke. That can be found elsewhere. Rather, this follow up to director Gary Keys 1980 “Memories of the Duke” is a very close-to-the-heart homage to one of the jazz greats.

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