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Live From Your Living Room Vol. 5

Desperately Seeking a Technicolor Dream

by **Laura Ferreiro**

January 14, 2009 - Anyone who's had a celebrity crush may find this week's first selection comforting. *Desperately Seeking Paul McCartney* chronicles one fan's undying, 40-year obsession with tracking down the legendary Beatle, making most fan's rock-star infatuations seem tame by comparison. Our second selection, *A Technicolor Dream*, will likely appeal to Pink Floyd fans or Anglophiles interested in the artistic scene in 1960s London. This DVD delves deeply into the British Underground movement of 1966-67, while offering insights into the legendary rock band that continues to influence countless musicians today.

Desperately Seeking Paul McCartney (DVD)



The seeds of this "mockumentary" were sown during a 1965 interview in which ABC teen reporter Ruth Anson asked Paul McCartney if he planned to tie the knot. "Only if you'll marry me," answered the famous Beatle. "I'd love to!!" she replied, and that was the end of it. But not in Anson's mind. Paul's cheeky response seems to have fuelled her life-long obsession with him, causing her to create scrapbooks and write songs in his honour, and actively hunt him down more than 40 years later. Was the uber-famous Beatle's proposal for real, or was it in jest? While viewers might think the answer is obvious, Anson feels she must track down her idol to find out for certain.

This quest drives the film, which took home the Audience Favorite prize for best picture at Hollywood's Mockfest. The 85-minute DVD focuses not only on Anson's personal plight, but also gives viewers rare insights into the making of reality film and TV programs and the producers who will go to great lengths to humiliate their subjects and generate artificial conflict.

It's never quite clear how much of the film is real and how much is contrived, but it makes for entertaining (and often cringe-worthy) viewing nonetheless. We see Anson going to great lengths to track down her idol, ranging from flashing a fake media pass at the Grammy Awards to recruiting a McCartney impersonator to record a song to attract the real Beatle's attention.

This film is not so much for Beatles fans (although they might find it amusing) as it is for those interested in the great lengths fans will go to in order to meet their idols, and how far "reality" producers will go to create conflict and get their shows on the air.

As for the bonus features, they are a very odd assortment of 14 Beatles-esque tunes written and performed by little-known artists accompanied by videos of a Beatles cover band lip-synching along. You got me.

Disc features:

- English: Dolby Digital 2.0 Stereo

The Video: 6/10
The Audio: 6/10
The Extras: 3/10
Overall: 6/10

A Technicolor Dream (DVD)



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DS Games



One of the latest DVDs to focus on Pink Floyd is *A Technicolor Dream*, which examines the British Underground movement from 1966-1967 and the integral role the legendary band played in it. Much more than a concert-based documentary, this film features revealing interviews with Pink Floyd's Roger Waters and Nick Mason, as well as political activist John "Hoppy" Hopkins and Floyd biographer Barry Miles, who discuss the movement that led up to the 14-hour Technicolor Dream concert at Alexander Palace in 1967, which featured Pink Floyd, John Lennon, Yoko Ono and several others.

The DVD is worthwhile viewing for Pink Floyd fans and those interested in the musical history of 1960s London. Not only do original band members discuss their involvement in the 1960s underground scene, but they also reveal their feelings about frontman Syd Barrett's departure from the band and his descent into madness.

Two complaints, though -- unless viewers are already familiar with the history of the 1960s Underground movement, they may find the beginning of the film frustrating because it takes quite a while to figure out what's going on. Also, you may have visions of using a cane to yank some of the duller speakers off camera (or you could just hit fast-forward).

The package includes a decent amount of noteworthy bonus footage. First up are three Pink Floyd videos: "Arnold Layne," "The Scarecrow" and "Astronomy Domine." They're billed on the DVD cover as "full-length Pink Floyd performances," which is a bit baffling because technically they're two short music videos and one brief snippet from a live show. Also included are extended interviews with five of the key players: Roger Waters, Nick Mason, Pete Jenner, Joe Boyd and Barry Miles, who go into even greater depth here than they do in the film.

Disc features:

- Dolby Digital Stereo
- English and French Subtitles

The Video: 6/10
 The Audio: 6/10
 The Extras: 6/10
 Overall: 6/10

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