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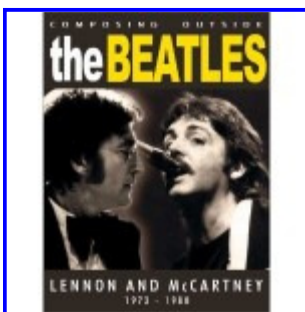
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[Composing Outside the Beatles: Lennon and McCartney 1973-1980 \(Pride DVD\)](#)

By

[Upchuck Undergrind](#)

– November 2, 2011 **Posted in:** [Reviews](#)



While both Paul McCartney and John Lennon had ups and downs in their post-Beatles career, those ups and downs didn't necessarily coincide. At first, it seemed Lennon would go on to dominate. He turned out a couple of smash hits in the form of "Imagine" and "Give Peace a Chance", but his increasing bent for extreme leftist politics and musical experimentation served to somewhat marginalize him, at least in

comparison to The Beatles' popularity or even that of Lennon in his short but intense post-Beatles peak. McCartney, on the other hand, started off his post-Beatles endeavors lukewarmly, but his star was to re-ascend soon enough. Though Wings' first album garnered an underwhelming critical response, the band fixed what went wrong and shot to popularity – to the point that one interviewee in this documentary says the joke was, “McCartney was in a band before The Beatles?” This lengthy documentary is comprehensive, especially given the very specific scope of its musical history focus, but as with many of these admittedly long-winded music docs that hit the world through eclectic distributor MVD, who issued this Pride release, long-winded does not mean boring. The trick of being both informative and entertaining never seems to elude these films and it's typical to find them engaging, even if the artist in question is not one of personal interest. So, once again, I'm treated to an achievement: submerging in a documentary that teaches me lots of new things, shares some fascinating music history and gives me a look beyond the wall between entertainer and audience. Kudos!

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