



Shared Darkness  
A Communal Life in Film and DVD, Examined



- [Back to Main Page](#)

- **Quicksearch**

 Include comments

April 2007

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">2</a>	<a href="#">3</a>	<a href="#">4</a>	<a href="#">5</a>	<a href="#">6</a>	<a href="#">7</a>
8	<a href="#">9</a>	<a href="#">10</a>	<a href="#">11</a>	<a href="#">12</a>	<a href="#">13</a>	<a href="#">14</a>
<a href="#">15</a>	<a href="#">16</a>	<a href="#">17</a>	<a href="#">18</a>	<a href="#">19</a>	<a href="#">20</a>	21
<a href="#">22</a>	23	<a href="#">24</a>	<a href="#">25</a>	<a href="#">26</a>	27	28
29	30					

- **Monthly Archives**

- [April 2007 \(58\)](#)
- [March 2007 \(57\)](#)
- [February 2007 \(66\)](#)
- [January 2007 \(79\)](#)
- [December 2006 \(61\)](#)
- [November 2006 \(69\)](#)
- [October 2006 \(62\)](#)
- [September 2006 \(51\)](#)
- [August 2006 \(75\)](#)
- [July 2006 \(65\)](#)
- [June 2006 \(53\)](#)
- [May 2006 \(42\)](#)
- [April 2006 \(36\)](#)

- **Category Archives**

- [DVD Reviews \(301\)](#)
- [Ephemera \(231\)](#)
- [Film Reviews \(145\)](#)



## Mary Wells: Greatest Hits



This entry was posted on 3/15/2007 8:09 AM and is filed under [DVD Reviews](#).



Generally credited as being one of the founders of the world famous “Motown Sound” that swept the nation in the 1960s, **Mary Wells is considered not only one of the best female singers in the music industry, but also a vital part of the success of Berry Gordy’s prestigious label.** This DVD release, though definitely too brief and somewhat dashed off, celebrates her musical offerings.

Like many of that era, Wells came up quick, as a talented youngster. While still in her teens, Wells began working as a contract songwriter for Tamla Records, and in short order got her own performance contract. Health problems plagued Wells

- [Interviews \(65\)](#)
- [Irritations \(23\)](#)
- [Musings \(98\)](#)
- [Old Made New \(23\)](#)

## • Blogroll

- [A Critical Moment](#)
- [Screen International](#)

## • Recent Entries

1. [Happy Birthday, Jordana Brewster](#)  
Thursday, April 26, 2007
2. [Stephanie Daley](#)  
Thursday, April 26, 2007
3. [Jamie Kennedy Kicks it Old Skool](#)  
Thursday, April 26, 2007
4. [Family](#)  
Thursday, April 26, 2007
5. [On the Next Poster](#)  
Wednesday, April 25, 2007
6. [Roger Ebert Back for Overlooked Festival](#)  
Tuesday, April 24, 2007
7. [The Wicker Man Remade as Comedy](#)  
Tuesday, April 24, 2007
8. [Through the Fire... Into the Frying Pan](#)  
Tuesday, April 24, 2007
9. [The Secret to Sigourney's Success](#)  
Sunday, April 22, 2007
10. [Parallel Thoughts](#)

throughout her life (as a small child, she suffered a bout of spinal meningitis, which left her temporarily paralyzed, and with partial blindness in one eye), so it was somehow less shocking — but no less unfortunate, for music lovers and her loved ones — when Wells passed away in July of 1992, at the age of 49 years old.

Wells reached her greatest creative and commercial heights by working with Smokey Robinson as a producer. She penned and recorded “Bye Bye Baby” in 1961, and the tune became a big hit, marking the start of a very successful five-year run. Three major singles would follow the next year: “The One Who Really Loves You” which would chart at #8, “You Beat Me to the Punch,” which would chart at #9, and “Two Lovers,” which would hit #7. Tours of Europe and the American South and Northeast followed, turning Wells into a solo sensation, which was confirmed in 1964 with her own #1 hit, “My Guy.”

Recorded live at the Rock 'n Roll Palace in Orlando, *Mary Wells: Greatest Hits* contains a collection of a half dozen of the singer-songwriter's tunes, along with four more bonus tracks from the up-tempo *Contours* and the *Crystals*, groups that were also part of Gordy's satellite of stars. The aforementioned quartet of 1961 songs kick things off, followed by “What's Easy for Two Is So Hard for One.” Signature tune “My Guy,” meanwhile, closes things out, with Wells' soulful performance coming across as at once intimate and forcefully grand (older *American Idol* fans can see a pinch of Wells in Melinda Doolittle). **At 40-some minutes, and with no supplemental features, this DVD feels fairly threadbare.** While remaining true to the title of the collection (these *are* her hits), it's a shame that there's no room for “Once Upon a Time,” Wells' captivating duet with Marvin Gaye, or other of her offerings. **B- (Concert) D (Disc)**

What did you think of this blog article?

- Liked
- Disliked
- No Opinion

[Vote & See Results](#)

Trackbacks

[Trackback specific URL for this entry](#)

- No trackbacks exist for this entry.

Comments





- No comments exist for this entry.

Sunday, April  
22, 2007

## • Recent Comments

1. popcorn42 on [Ahh, Harold & Kumar...](#)  
4/24/2007
2. FanboyKH on [Frank Darabont Blasts George Lucas](#)  
4/21/2007
3. Dianna on [The Ape](#)  
4/18/2007
4. muchomas on [Silver Lake Film Festival Plots Family Day](#)  
4/18/2007
5. Ape on [The Ape](#)  
4/17/2007
6. Princess-Hokie on [Perfect Stranger](#)  
4/15/2007
7. VanGumby on [Reign Over Me](#)  
4/7/2007
8. Good-n-Plenty on [Grindhouse Thoughts](#)  
4/1/2007
9. Taylor Durden on [Joshua Jackson on Politics](#)  
3/30/2007
10. MagMax on [Alec Baldwin's Balls](#)  
3/27/2007

## • Syndicate This Blog

-  [Entries Atom 1.0](#)
-  [Comments Atom 1.0](#)
-  [Entries RSS 2.0](#)
-  [Comments](#)

Leave a comment

**Submitted comments will be subject to moderation before being displayed.**

14190

Enter the above security code  
(required)

Name

Email (will not be published)

Website

Your comment is 0 characters **limited to 3000 characters.**

- Subscribe to this entry
- Subscribe to this blog
- Remember me

Submit Comment

Cancel

Check Spelling

[RSS 2.0](#)

## • **Subscribe To Blog/Entry**

Blog  Entry

**Subscribe**



---

Copyright 2007. <http://SHAREDDARKNESS.COM>. All rights reserved.