



### David Bowie- Under Review 1976-1979: The Berlin Trilogy (Sexy Intellectual)

To catalog the works of David Bowie would be like cataloging the languages at the Tower of Babel. Few artists have offered such diverse sounds in their career and fewer still have maintained such a level of popularity while doing so.

In an effort to give a feel for the Bowie way, this DVD focuses on one of the most transformative eras in Bowie's career and in the modern musical era as a whole.

Having made his mark mostly as other characters (e.g., The Thin White Duke, Aladdin Sane, and the legendary Ziggy Stardust), Bowie took back his own name (which is actually not his) and took his fame and other issues to Berlin where he composed three of his most critically-acclaimed and progressive albums – *Low*, *Heroes*, and *Lodger*. Based on his desire to open his ears to the avant garde and to work with the likes of Robert Fripp, Brian Eno (who actually did not produce the albums, as is often supposed), Tony Visconti (guilty as charged), the Kraut Rock movement and his apparent fascist fixations, these albums offered sonic explorations the likes of which many had never heard before from any artist, let alone a Pop superstar like Bowie. Even though they were so new ("neu"?) and bold, however, these albums still spawned hit singles (e.g., the #3 "Sound and Vision" and the epic "Heroes") and new legions of fans and followers, including musicians and artists that range from Iggy Pop and Philip Glass to Arcade Fire and Madonna(?). At least so says such noted critics and musical historians as *Melody Maker*/*Mojo* scribe David Stubbs, authors Mark Prendergast and Daryl Easlea, and local (i.e., German) peers Dieter Moebius and Michael Rother (Cluster; Neu!). After setting this challenging trilogy in historical and musical context through a series of rare video clips and audio interview segments, the 85-minute DVD looks at how the albums came to be and where they fit both in Bowie's monumental career and in the arc of contemporary music. When it is all over, you should be ready for the interactive Bowie quiz and the rest of the bonus features, that also include further interviews and a special "Bowie after Berlin" feature that helps continue the long winding musical road that is the magnificent David Bowie.

- Matt Robinson

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