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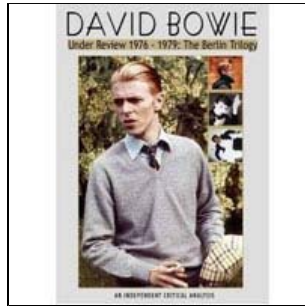
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## David Bowie

Under Review 1976 - 1979: The Berlin Trilogy

*Sexy Intellectual*

**Bowie's Berlin Trilogy given an Independent Critical Analysis...**

The Under Review series is the multimedia equivalent of those cut-and-paste retrospectives you find in the more sobersided end of the music press - serious, pseudo-academic, drawing not so much on the subject themselves as the reminiscences of journalists and ageing muso colleagues.

Given the length and complexity of Bowie's career, this DVD restricts itself to a consideration of his late 70s Berlin period - the three albums *Low*, *Heroes* and *Lodger*. Although commentators like David Stubbs, Daryl Easlea and the pugilistic Paulo Hewitt remind us that Bowie was at this point largely in flight from the pressures of vapid American celebrity, they do also point up the albums' diverse influences - not just German music of the so-called "Krautrock" school, but elements of Japanese, African and middle-eastern traditions, too.

German innovators Dieter Moebius of Cluster and Michael Rother of Neu! have intriguing insights to share and there is much discussion of the extent of Brian Eno's contribution to the albums - including a digression to discuss their 90s collaboration, *Outside*. However, Eno himself is conspicuous by his absence, as is producer Tony Visconti.

As always with this series, the talk can be fascinating but the multimedia illustration can get a little spurious: let someone mention that *Heroes* is almost as long as *Stairway to Heaven* and up comes a photo of Led Zeppelin; mention a mellotron and we see footage of The Moody Blues playing *Nights in White Satin*.

Perhaps the oddest moment of all is when we're reminded that Bowie actually sang *Heroes* on the Bing Crosby's 1977 Christmas TV special. In those pre-MTV days, you had to take what promotional opportunities you could get.

By **Clare O'Brien**

This release was published on 13 Nov 2006.

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