



**Leonard Cohen: Under Review: 1935-1977**

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Leonard Cohen - Under Review 1934-1977, An Independent Critical Analysis from Sexy Intellectual and Music Video Distributors is a wonderful biography and well-deserved documentary on the life of Cohen from his 1934 birth in Montreal to his interest in literature and poetry during his college years and beyond into his success as an underground musical icon. The ninety minutes or so give much to the viewer detailing the world of this legend with important and compelling interviews ranging from biographers to those who worked with him.

Hearing Janis Joplin The Band producer John Simon give his input along with Cohen's guitarist and bandleader Ron Cornelius, Phil Spector engineer extraordinaire Larry Levine, critics Robert Christgau and Anthony De Curtis, well, it's a real cavalcade of behind-the-scenes stars discussing this important figure in an informative and highly entertaining way. These "unauthorized critical analysis" discs can be hit or miss, the U2 DVD Collectors Box a double DVD waste of time, The Killers Leaving Las Vegas even more so, while investigations of Kate Bush or the Pink Floyd album Meddle are very worthy of your attention. The music aficionado and devotee needs to study up on which of these "unofficial" documentaries is going to deliver the goods before purchasing as they are proliferating at an alarming rate. The Leonard Cohen: Under Review 1934-1977} is one of the best of the bunch. It's a real treasure that will hold up over repeated viewings and, along with the insight into Cohen's life, just having the footage of some of these legends who were involved with Leonard's music on tape is alone worth the price of admission.

Usually these "unauthorized" discs promise much but fail to deliver, however, the "obscure footage, rare interviews, and rarely seen photographs of and with Leonard" advertised on the package truly add to this comprehensive bio pic helping make it a very nice guide through the history of an underrated poet, singer and novelist.

- Joe Viglione