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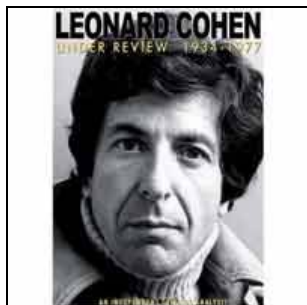
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### Leonard Cohen Under Review 1934 - 1977

*Sexy Intellectual*

Unofficial glance at the early career of the man with gravel for breath.

It's important to realise that this is not an official look at Cohen's career, as one could be expecting a biography type Hollywood treatment similar to the Johnny Cash inspired Walk The Line; no, this is a bargain-basement jaunt through Cohen's life from birth to 1977 with titles, production values and a general feel akin to a broken thing. But that is not the point, the voiceover tells us that the point of this is intellectual, we're not here for sexy revelations or scandalous insights, rather informed analysis scored by music not too expensive to license.

A poetic individual born to an affluent Jewish family, Cohen is far from the rockstar type and accordingly this documentary is a rather staid affair. However, it's interesting stuff, especially to learn that Cohen first started song writing as a way of funding his lifestyle as a travelling poet. Finding himself in New York at 32 in the Chelsea Hotel, he befriended Warhol and Lou Reed and the rest is history....

.....which is sadly the case in this film. Whilst it constantly teases you with interesting titbits and yarns that scream for a scratchy movie clip, instead far too much screen time is taken up by old men talking over static images.

By **Ross Breadmore**

This release was published on 01 Apr 2007.

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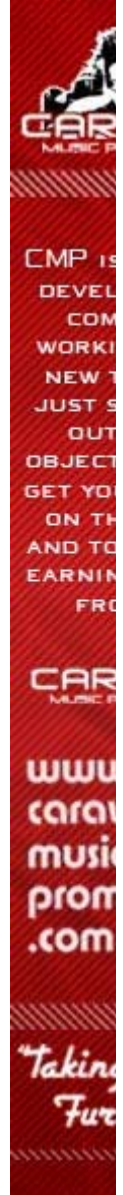
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