

# Newhouse News Service

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DVD SPOTLIGHT

**The Byrds, "Under Review" (Chrome Dreams/MVD) - 3 and a half stars.**

The "Under Review" series of DVDs has devoted itself to a rather scholarly, sometimes dry look at some of rock's biggest stars, discussing their careers through interviews with journalists, acquaintances of the artists and usually bit players in the subject's career. This very in-depth look at the Byrds, which spans two discs and has a running time of three hours and 13 minutes, doesn't stray from that formula, but it still emerges as one of the best yet "Under Review" documentaries.

Though the DVD is not authorized by the Byrds and founding father Roger McGuinn was not interviewed, a couple of his many ex-bandmates, John York and Gene Parsons, do contribute. Together with journalists and rock authors from both sides of the Atlantic, as well as producer Van Dyke Park and others, they tell the Byrds' tale in relatively intriguing fashion. The band's key role in not only the folk-rock movement, but also in the country rock explosion is explored in depth, and there are some amusing stories along the way including a few classics detailing David Crosby's departure from the group.

Unlike some "Under Review" documentaries, this one does feature some rare footage of the band, and includes some of the Byrds' most famous music, including "Mr. Tambourine Man," "Eight Miles High," and "Chestnut Mare."

## **NOTE:**

This column shipped to 46 papers (7 million circulation) through the Newhouse News Service as well this week.