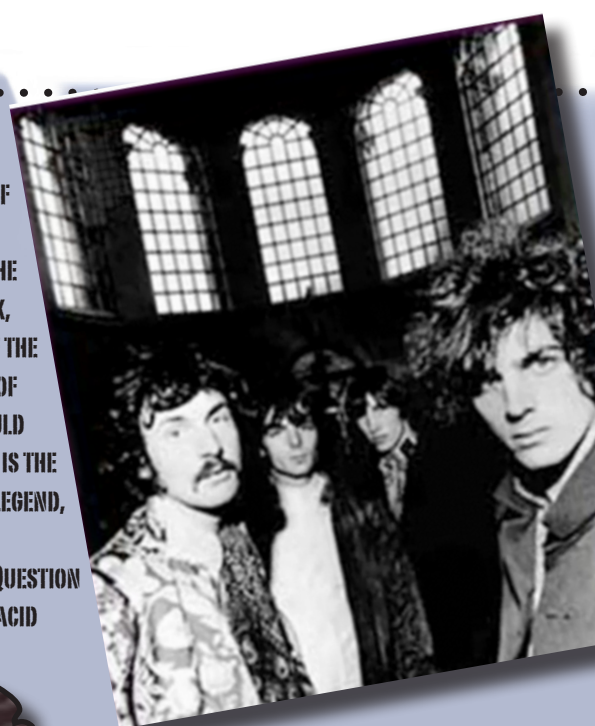


FROM THE UFO CLUB AND THE PIPERS AT THE GATES OF DAWN TO LIVING IN SECLUSION AS A RECLUSE..... THE FACE OF PROGRESSIVE ROCK, AND LIKE WALTERS ONE OF THE CREATIVE CORNER STONES OF THE FLOYD, JUST WHAT COULD HAVE SYD HAVE ACHIEVED, IS THE SPECULATION OF MYTH, & LEGEND, FONDLY MISSED. LIKE PETER GREEN ROCKS QUESTION MARK HANGS OVER THESE 'ACID CASUALTIES'



SYD BARRETT

STEADY WITH THE ACID SYD! LAMENTS KEN SINYARD

THE ORIGINAL FOUNDER MEMBER OF PINK FLOYD, WHO SYD BARRETT (6 JANUARY 1946 – 7 JULY 2006), BORN ROGER KEITH BARRETT, WAS AN ENGLISH SINGER-SONGWRITER, GUITARIST, AND PAINTER. HE IS MOST REMEMBERED AS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE PSYCHEDELIC/PROGRESSIVE ROCK BAND PINK FLOYD, PROVIDING MAJOR MUSICAL AND STYLISTIC DIRECTION IN THEIR EARLY WORK, ALTHOUGH HE LEFT THE GROUP IN 1968 AMIDST SPECULATIONS OF MENTAL ILLNESS EXACERBATED BY HEAVY DRUG USE. [FROM WICKI](#)

THROUGH LATE 1967 and early 1968, Barrett's behaviour became increasingly erratic and unpredictable, partly as a consequence of his reported heavy use of psychedelic drugs, notably LSD. Many report having seen him on stage with the group, strumming on one chord through the entire concert, or not playing at all. At a show at The Fillmore in San Francisco, during a performance of "Interstellar

Overdrive", Barrett slowly detuned his guitar. The audience seemed to enjoy such antics, unaware of the rest of the band's consternation. Interviewed on the Pat Boone show during this tour, Syd's reply to Boone's questions was a 'blank and totally mute stare'; according to Nick Mason, 'Syd wasn't into moving his lips that day'. Before a performance in late 1967, Barrett reportedly crushed Mandrax tranquilliser tablets and an entire tube of Brylcreem into his hair, which subsequently melted down

his face under the heat of the stage lighting, making him look like "a guttered candle". Nick Mason later disputed the Mandrax portion of this story, stating that "Syd would never waste good mandies". During their disastrous abridged tour of the United States, guitarist David O'List from The Nice was called in to substitute for Barrett on several occasions when he was unable to perform or failed to appear. On their return to the

UK, David Gilmour (a school friend of Barrett's) was asked to join the band as a second guitarist to cover for Barrett, whose erratic behaviour prevented him from performing. For a handful of shows David played and sang while Barrett wandered around on stage, occasionally deciding to join in playing. The other band members soon grew tired of Barrett's antics and, in January 1968, on the way to a show at Southampton

University, the band elected not to pick Barrett up: one person in the car said, "Shall we pick Syd up?" and another said, "Let's not bother" (Gilmour interview in *Guitar World*, January 1995). The band's initial plan was to keep him in the group as a non-touring member — as Brian Wilson did for The Beach Boys, Barrett had, up until then, written the overwhelming bulk of their material, but this soon proved to be impractical.

There are many stories about Barrett's bizarre and intermittently psychotic behaviour, some known to be true. According to Roger Waters, Barrett came into what was to be their last practice session with a new song he had dubbed "Have You Got It, Yet?". The song seemed simple enough when he first presented it to his bandmates, but it soon became impossibly difficult to learn and they eventually