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## DVD review: 'Sensation - The Story of The Who's Tommy'

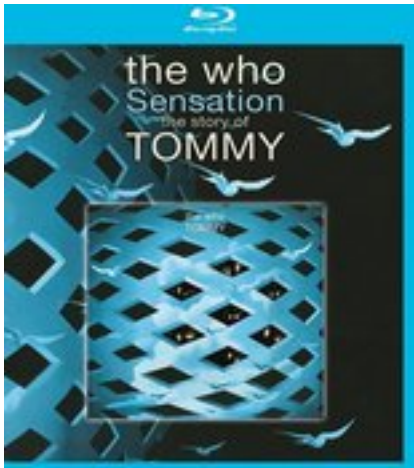


Singer Roger Daltrey of The Who during the final performance of the rock opera "Tommy," at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, June 7, 1970. Drummer Keith Moon and guitarist Pete Townshend, who wrote "Tommy" perform in the background. (AP file photo)

Hard to believe that prior the release of the landmark rock opera "Tommy" in 1969, there was a chance The Who might call it a day. The near-demise of the British rock band is one of the revelations found in "**Sensation – The Story of**

**The Who's Tommy" (Eagle Rock Entertainment, Blu-ray, \$19.98, DVD, \$14.98 list price)**, which arrives in stores on Tuesday. The home video release expands on the insightful documentary, which first aired on BBC in August 2013. "Sensation" features interviews with The Who songwriter Pete Townshend and frontman Roger Daltrey, as well as archival interviews with late bandmates John Entwistle and Keith Moon.

"Sensation" chronicles how Townshend came up with "Tommy" at a time when he felt unable to produce more Top 10 hit songs like "I Can See for Miles" or "Pictures of Lily."



"We were a singles band going nowhere," Daltrey recalls in "Sensation."

Townshend, who had abandoned use of hallucinogenic drugs after a bad trip and turned toward spirituality, created a rock opera about a deaf, dumb and blind kid who becomes a

pinball wizard. In his opera, Townshend skewers the cult of celebrity and messianic figures. “Tommy” went on to sell 20 million copies, revitalize The Who, and inspire a motion picture, as well as a Tony Award winning Broadway show. Songs from the rock opera remain part of The Who’s live shows. “Sensation” does a neat job of recalling the creation of “Tommy” with recollections of not only the band, but The Who’s managers, recording engineer Bob Pridden, rock critics and cover art creator Mike McInnerney. Included in the home video release is a 33-minute, trippy black-and-white performance of selections from “Tommy” from The Who’s 1969 appearance on German television’s “Beat Club.”

