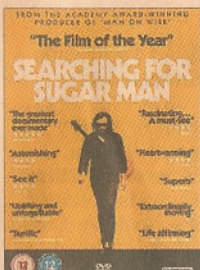


DVDs



Searching for Sugar Man

Malik Bendjelloul, 2011

Studiocanal ★★★★★

It sounds like the stuff of rock 'n' roll romanticism: an enigmatic singer-songwriter emerges from nowhere, pens two great albums and then slips quietly into obscurity – all without even removing his shades. And there the story of 1970s songsmith Rodriguez would end, were it not for a handful of devoted fans in South Africa, where his rabble-rousing records made him a cult hit, unbeknown to the man himself.

What unfolds in this documentary is pure fairy tale – many endings, not all of them happy. Decaying Detroit and the sparkling Cape coast are the twin backdrops against which first-time director Malik Bendjelloul works tirelessly to keep the visuals as arresting as the story. **Raphael Abraham**