

## Jimi Hendrix

There isn't a guitar student alive since 1970 that hasn't stood in front of a full-length mirror and taken a surreptitious swipe at Jimi Hendrix's Woodstock finale. That rendition of The Star Spangled Banner may not have been his best performance, but it cemented Hendrix in a time and place which both fit and was foreign to him. Hendrix was a performer catapulted to sudden fame after years of hard work. He worked alone and with his bands, The Jimi Hendrix Experience and The Band of Gypsies, and played blues, rock and psychedelic with equal inspiration. He enjoyed four incredible, hard-lived years of wild adulation and died in London just short of 28 under circumstances simmered with enough fact, nuance and speculation to lock his demise in the public consciousness with those of Marilyn Monroe, JFK and Princess Di. Of his talent, however, his awesome electric talent, there is no question: he was the best.