

DVD Round Up

Renaissance Song Of Scheherazade Cherry Red Records

The quality on this DVD release is very lo-fi, little more than bootleg quality to be honest. Recorded in New Jersey, the release comprises of a date in 1976 and one in 1979. The sound quality is poor, and the visuals in black and white, somewhat akin to watching a 1960's television in a poor reception area. Material like this is pretty rare though, as Renaissance were not a band that courted much media coverage. Many of the bands best known songs are here, such as Northern Lights, The Vultures Fly High, and Song Of Scheherazade. On some songs though the speed seems a little slow, which stands out most on Jekyll and Hyde. It's a pity, but this is one really for the avid fans only. I am told better quality copies of this collectors item are now available. **Bernard Law**

Cat Stevens Tea For The Tillerman Live Wienerworld

Recorded live in Los Angeles in 1971 at KCET studios. This is an intimate concert with just a small crowd, Cat playing mainly acoustic guitar, but piano on some songs, also supported by two other session musician on acoustic instruments. This was a very creative time for him, and features his then hit song Wild World. As the title suggests this short concert, about half an hour, features mainly songs from the album of the same name. The DVD also includes a short animated piece, Teaser and the Firecat, which is mainly a vehicle for his song Moonshadow also featured in the live concert. There is a lot of long hair around, drooping moustache's, and beards, and in a time when it was cool to sit around crossed legged and gently nod knowingly. His ability as a singer song writer is without doubt, and this will be enjoyed by fans, but is very much of its time, and to be honest I was a little bored. **Steve Mourton**

Richie Kotzen Bootlegged in Brazil Frontiers Records

Recorded at an intimate venue in Brazil on Kotzen's 2007 South American tour this DVD features many of the same tracks you will find on the "Live in Sao Paulo" CD. The show features the former Mr Big and Poison guitarist in a stripped down three-piece band which allows him the freedom to improvise some lengthy solos during the 70 minute show - the solos on "Socialite" and "Doin' What the Devil Says To Do" are superb. Kotzen's style is very bluesy, and while this release is described as melodic hard rock, the loose style of the performance coupled with Kotzen's playing make this a blues rock show with heavy moments. Kotzen is good to watch as he squeezes all sorts of emotions out of his guitar and makes it all look so easy. **Miles Bartaby**

White Lion Bang Your Head Festival 2005 Frontiers Records

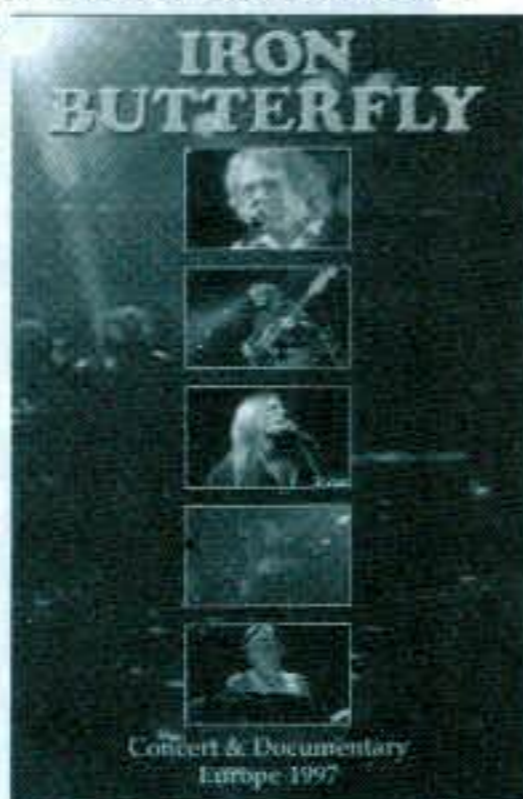
2005 was a busy year for White Lion. After a 14 year absence Mike Tramp decided to reform the band and they embarked on a lengthy European tour which finished with an appearance at the Bang Your Head festival. Their hour long set was captured for this DVD and features all the old classics such as "Lights And Thunder", "Wait", and "Broken Heart". The DVD also features an interview with Tramp, and a handful of live performances from other shows. **Miles Bartaby**

Vanilla Fudge When Two Worlds Collide ABC Voiceprint

Core members Tim Bogert (bass) and Carmine Appice (drums) are joined by Bill Pascali (keyboards, lead vocals) and Teddy Rondinelli (guitar) plus a full symphony orchestra (San Fernando Valley). Whilst not a fan of their cover-versions of other artists' songs, albeit in their own style, I was impressed by their performance as musicians and entertainers; they provide some great vocal harmonies too. A highlight was seeing spontaneous glee on the faces of the orchestra, at being asked by Carmine for some audience participation; they clapped and happily repeated his chants during a version of 'Shotgun', which has an impressive drum-solo. Tim Bogert does a good bass-solo intro on a not-so-good cover of 'She's Not There'; they also play their rendition of Supremes' song, 'You Keep Me Hanging On' which had gained them success in the late 60s. They disbanded in 1970, reforming in 1982 with various re-unions since. There's a commentary-option where Tim and Carmine introduce the covers performed. **Dave Kennedy**

Iron Butterfly - Concert and Documentary: Europe 1997 ABC Voiceprint

The three original members, Doug Ingle (vocals keyboards), Lee Dorman (vocals, bass) and Ron Bushy (drums) are joined by Erik Barnett (vocals, guitar) and Derek Hilland (additional keyboards, backing vocals). This polished performance features a variety of moods and styles from a career going back to 1966; the additional keys are a real bonus. Excellent atmospheric pieces of progrock



such as Silent Screaming, Whispers In The Wind and In The Time Of Our Lives, with great lead vocals, harmonies and keyboards, reminding me in places of Procol Harum. Other tracks include the head-nodding imaginative blues-tinged rocker In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida, Butterfly Blue, plus Easy Rider reminiscent of Deep Purple. There's band-interviews, plus Steve Howe talks about when Yes supported Iron Butterfly, learning a lot from them in terms of stage-management. Enjoyable introduction to those who, like me, were previously unfamiliar with the band. **Dave Kennedy**

Paul Simon Live in Philadelphia Eagle Rock Entertainment

Recorded in 1980, this performance has not been available on DVD before, and not on any other format for many years. A very young looking Paul Simon, performs a lot of his hits and some when he was with Garfunkel. The quality of recording is, understandable not up to today's standards but none the less watchable. He is accompanied by the backing band Stuff. Favourites such as Me and Julio, and Still Crazy... as well as a lovely gentle version of The Boxer, and as an encore The Sound of Silence. A good addition to any Paul Simon fans, but limited appeal otherwise. **Steve Mourton**

Rick Springfield Live And Kickin' Voiceprint

Australian/American singer, musician and actor Rick Springfield hit his commercial peak in the early 80's with the hit singles Human Touch and Jessie's Girl and this DVD, which includes the latter but not the former, was recorded in 1982. It is very typical of both the era and the genre, catchy pop rock, big chords and even bigger hair, and all very clean cut and perfect for the U.S charts of the day. Enjoyable frothy pop/rock, a little dated. **Steve Ward**

Chuck Berry & Bo Diddley Rock & Roll All-Star Jam Voiceprint

This 1985 concert features two of the all time greats of rock'n'roll/blues along with a formidable guest list which includes Ron Wood, Carl Wilson, Kenney Jones, Mick Fleetwood, Mitch Mitchell & John Mayall amongst others. The performances and material is classic throughout with each of the stars given a chance to shine on their own songs and the only dip in quality comes in the form of the execrable My Ding A Ling....seldom can such a major player have come up with such dross. Don't let that put you off though as it is the only glitch on an otherwise excellent release. **Steve Ward**

Glass Hammer Live at the Tivoli Sound Resources

If it was not for the three thousand miles of water between the UK and the States I feel that I might well have been at many a Glass Hammer live show. Steve Babb (bass), Fred Schendel (keyboards) and the rest of the guys throw everything but the kitchen sink in to their shows and never appear to be going through the motions. There is some of the finest progressive rock music you will ever hear performed by some of the best in the business (that you're never likely to see). On top of this there is so much time and effort put in to what the band does that evokes so much drama. All of the above is caught on this most wonderful of DVD's yet again by Glass Hammer. The Tennessee based band again go big time - with the help of corporate sponsorship - and bring the help of massed choirs along with their usual three-piece string section. This gig, advertised as 'the very last' - but I very much doubt that seeing the buzz they get out of all the effort - is performed in front of a home town audience and skims across the career so far. Having such fine musicians and wonderful knowledge of how to bring together human voices makes this a special occasion. In David Walliman they have the most able of guitarists and vocalist Carl Groves not only looks the part but sings it and acts it too.

The band influences are always easy to hear with Yes being at the top but it is the backing vocals of the lovely Susi Bogdanowicz, Bethany Warren and Flo Parris that bring that added sparkle to the massive sounds created.

Maybe Yes should have thought of that one!

Powerful drumming from Matt Mendians link nicely with Babbs' bass lines, (very Squire like may I add), when muscle is needed and the gentler side is always waiting be it through backing vocals or Schendel's Wakeman like keys.

As I have said may times before, Glass Hammer are much more than a Yes clone band, they do have the sense to stamp their own mark on the progressive style and there is always that element of surprise. The 150 voice choir of Lee University Choral Union do an amazing job with Beati Quorum Via without the help of the band and this leads neatly in to Having Caught A Glimpse. Just for good measure a rip-roaring version of South Side of the Sky concludes what must have been an awe inspiring evening. The good news the CRS has copies of this release at the rock shop! **MH**

