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REVIEW

Music DVD Review: Vanilla Fudge - *When Two Worlds Collide*

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The later half of the 60s certainly produced some of the strangest band names in history. Led Zeppelin, Iron Butterfly, Moby Grape, Captain Beefheart, Pink Floyd, The Grateful Dead, and of course Vanilla Fudge. I could have filled a whole page. Stay away from psychedelic drugs kids! Not to be outdone, this latest generation of hipsters have also managed to come up with an astonishing amount of weird, and gayer than ever, band names too - I'm talking about you Death Cab for Cutie and Panic at the Disco. Start doing better drugs kids!

Vanilla Fudge was an American rock band of the late '60s who had a unique penchant for transforming contemporary Motown classics into their very own psychedelic-metal monstrosities. Throw in a few Beatles, Donovan, and Sonny Bono covers and prepare for the eclectic musical ride of your life when you melt some Vanilla Fudge on the old turntable. The band released five studio albums between 1967 and 1970 and had garnered quite a respectable following by the time of their breakup in 1970. Respectable enough that even Led Zeppelin opened for them in 1969.

The band has reunited several different times, with a few different lineups, since their breakup. This 2004 performance features original members Carmine Appice (drums, vocals) and Tim Bogert (bass, vocals), along with newer members Bill Pascali (keyboards, vocals) and Teddy Rondinelli (guitar, vocals). The performance takes place in what appears to be some type of large rehearsal studio, or perhaps an empty club, with full concert lighting and sound, and a professional camera crew. The band is also backed by the San Fernando Valley Symphony Orchestra, which is what spurred the name of the DVD, *When Two Worlds Collide*.

This is not your standard concert DVD however, as there is no hint of an audience present, other than what appeared to be a few guests standing behind the orchestra. If there were more people, then they certainly were not shown or heard from. The orchestra is also positioned right in front of the stage, with conductor James Domaine standing right in front of the band. An unceremonious fade-to-black occurs between each song performance, and this, along with the lack of any audience, gives the DVD a very strange kind of vibe. It almost feels like you are watching one of those old European music television shows from the 70s, where the band performed live in the TV studio. Maybe that is the vibe they were going for.

The performance features all of the band's biggest hits including covers of the Motown classics "You Keep Me Hangin' On" and "Take Me For A Little While", as well as Donovan's "Season Of The Witch". Oh, but that is only scraping the surface of what these boys can do with an otherwise perfectly respectable song. Who is the first band you think of when "Tearin' Up My Heart" comes on your radio receiver unit? Well, Vanilla Fudge of course. The Fudge show those N'Sync punks just how these stupid boy band ballads are really supposed to be done. And now I can die satisfied knowing that I have finally witnessed the 10-minute, heavy-metal-jam rendition of "Do You Think I'm Sexy". Don't ask me how, but the shit rocked!

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Paul Roy is a network administrator by day and amateur music DVD critic by night. When not attending as many live concerts as he possibly can, Paul likes nothing more than to kick back with a good concert DVD and rattle some walls. Paul also publishes his own review site, [concertdvdreviews.com](#).

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