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KILLING JOKE - Requiem {Charly}

None of the immediate post-Punk bands had the power to captivate and terrify an audience in the live arena like KILLING JOKE. The cold, metallic clang of Geordie's guitar has often been imitated but rarely (if ever) equalled, while whatever supporting rhythm section has been tight, powerful and pulsed on a pre-Industrial mechanical groove. Of course, Jaz Coleman as a frontman provides a wonderfully unhinged focal point with a distorted, menacing vocal and psychotic stage persona.

This DVD/ CD package is of KILLING JOKE live at Lokerse Feesten, Belgium in August 2003. It's a professional recording also, filmed on multiple cameras with broad, full sound.

The show opens with a brooding and ever potent 'Requiem' which really highlights the influence the band had on the Industrial scene. Geordie's guitar sounds otherworldly while the backing groove is both danceable and bludgeoning in its power. Jaz is dressed in some kinda druid's outfit, looking not dissimilar from one of Richard III's entourage. He stays draped in these layers (and face paint) for the whole show. Other cranium crunching chunks include the intimidating, unrelenting prowess of 'Wardance', the punishing precision of 'Whiteout', the depth-charge bass boom that litters 'Total Invasion' and the unnerving reworking of 'Psyche'. Jaz says little between songs, but noticeably lambastes America during 'Change' with a prominent "Fuck America, Fuck Bush," declaration.

The big negative of the show is the annoying and over-stated camera effects! We get endless layered images, slow motion, blurring, neon colouring, jarring contrasts, rapid zooming, multiple imagery... It all comes on like some digitally enhanced Acid trip! Oddly, there is no 'Love Like Blood' or 'Eighties'. The latter especially is a disappointing omission - for me it's one of the most unadulterated examples of the power of KILLING JOKE.

There are no extras, except for a CD of the same show and a booklet that gives you a basic KILLING JOKE history, discography and listing of those who have recorded KILLING JOKE songs.

One for fans only I think. I'd love to see a recording of this quality but with the Raven-era line-up. Any chance?? (15.12.09)

- STEVE SCANNER