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The Wonder Stuff – Construction For The Modern Vidiot

Picture: C+ Sound: B- Extras: C Concert: B-

Though they have been around for about years, few have heard of The Wonder Stuff, but they were in the thick of their own U.K. Rock wave along with the likes of Ned's Atomic Dustbin. **Construction For The Modern Vidiot** constructs eighty-five minutes of concert footage from three dates between 2000 and 2002. Though not as well known, they are a good band and impress in all cases with the following song list:

- 1) Can't Shape Up
- 2) Cartoon Boyfriend
- 3) Here Comes Everyone
- 4) Golden Green
- 5) Welcome To The Cheapseats
- 6) The Size Of A Cow
- 7) On The Ropes
- 8) Who Wants To Be The Disco King?
- 9) Full Of Life (Happy Now)
- 10) Circle Square
- 11) Ten Trenches Deep
- 12) Poison
- 13) Red Berry Joy Town
- 14) No, For The 13th Time
- 15) Gimme Some Truth
- 16) Good Night Though
- 17) Mission Drive
- 18) Caught In My Shadow
- 19) Don't Let Me Down, Gently
- 20) Unbearable

Yes, there may be a parental advisory on the back of the DVD case, but this is some very smart, interesting, well written, well performed music and the sense of humor is another plus. Just look at the titles. Wouldn't it be nice if they finally had a breakthrough hit, even if it was one of their classics?

The anamorphically enhanced 1.78 X 1 image is slightly varied from concert to concert, but all have detail limits being early such tapings in part. The Dolby Digital 5.1 mix is not bad, though I wish this were in DTS because that would make this more involving. The combination is good enough, but they can do better in presentation. Extras include an interview about eight and a half minutes long with the band, a "stuff and nonsense" collage of footage from their concerts, biography information done as comic strip, which has mixed results and a booklet with text by Miles Hunt about the band.

Construction For The Modern Vidiot is far from vidiotic and worth a look.

Nicholas Sheffo

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