



Europe

Live From the Dark (DVD)

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On November 15th, 2004 at the Carling Apollo Hammersmith Theatre in London, England, the band Europe took the stage to record Live From the Dark. Unlike many "reunions" of late, this is the classic Europe lineup (you know, the ones that wrote and recorded a little album known as The Final Countdown?) and make no mistake about it, it's THE Europe. Live From the Dark makes that fact abundantly clear.

The band sounds great on this DVD, I'd wager that they sound better now than they did when they were selling millions of albums. It includes songs from the band's entire catalog but focuses heavily on the band's two most popular releases, The Final Countdown and Out of This World, as well as their most recent release, Start From the Dark. The package also contains a second DVD of extras (none really noteworthy to be honest) and the special edition of the DVD package also contains the Start From the Dark album.

First off, I recommend buying the version of this DVD that comes with the album. This is an excellent album that sounds even better live than on CD. Both are great though and should not be missed. The band opens the DVD with "Got to Have Faith," tearing it up from the very first note. The crowd really gets drawn in when they roll around to their massive hit "Superstitious." The beginning of the song is changed a bit and you have to wonder if it's a miscue. Miscue or not this song is when the band sounds their best and is at their liveliest (with the exception of the energetic version of "The Final Countdown" that ends the encore). There's nothing disappointing sound wise, some of the songs lack the spark that made them so great in my opinion (such as "Carrie" and "Rock the Night") and once or twice you catch the band almost looking bored playing them. The superb encore, which includes "Cherokee" and "Start From the Dark" as well as "The Final Countdown," is well done. You are almost salivating for these three songs by the time they actually play them.

This is an excellent DVD and an excellent album by one of rock's premier acts. I hope that this isn't just a one off reunion because Europe is better now than they ever were. The future looks very bright.