

Thunderfingers: A Tribute

Review by Joe Viglione

John Entwistle talks to quitarist Gordon Giltrap and the twenty extra minutes of bonus material are a real treasure on this seventy minute DVD tribute to the "bass player of the Millennium". The conversation with Giltrap is said to be the last in-depth interview with the rock star before his passing and finds him comfortable and very talkative. The interview is also noteworthy as the camera takes the viewer through Entwistle's home to see a fantastic array of bass quitars, hundreds in the collection, including a discussion of "the bass I've used the most." Giltrap actually gives the master a lesson in playing, which is amusing, along with some "thunderous" solo rumblings from the man who called himself a "bass guitarist" instead of bassist. That walk through the castle captures on video another stack of bass guitars in a room as well as John's collection of deep sea fish (stuffed, unfortunately). John Visnaskas, who published the fan magazine "Who's News" with Mark Cohen from 1978 to 1983, and who co-wrote 1975's invaluable "Trouser Press Discography" with critic Ira Robbins commented on the DVD for AMG: "It's great for the hardcore fan, (and) I absolutely enjoy it because I'm hardcore. One thing I've never seen before is his girlfriend, a rare moment with Lisa Pritchett-Johnson, his common-law wife who died in 2005, not too long after John's passing in 2002." There are interviews with his mother, "Queeny", his son, Rick Wakeman, Jeff "Skunk" Baxter, Dave Lambert of The Strawbs, The Who's manager, Bill Curbishley and others who discuss the life of Entwistle interspersed with more interview footage from the Gordon Giltrap interviews. It's an informative and important work for those millions of Who fans as well as music historians; the thoughts of Entwistle's family and colleagues regarding a major component of one of the more influential bands of the rock and roll era.

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