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METAL DREAMS

EUROPE - <i>The Final Countdown Tour 1986</i> <i>Live In Sweden - 20th Anniversary Edition</i>		Music Video Distributors
	Posted: 04/07/07	
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	Category: Hard Rock	
	Original European Released: 2006	
	Label URL: www.mvdb2b.com	
		Artist URL: www.europetheband.com
<p>It's hard to believe that twenty years has passed since the release of <i>The Final Countdown</i>, but it has, which means we're all getting too damn old. The album was Europe's commercial pinnacle and also the album that marked the unfortunate exit of Guitar God John Norum. The 2006 interview included in the extras of this DVD explains the reason for John's oddly timed exit so many years ago. Originally released on VHS back in the day, <i>The Final Countdown Tour 1986</i> captures Europe as they broke into the big time. Frontman Joey Tempest was the prettiest guy on the hard rock scene at the time with his poodle hair-do, bronzed skin, and heavy eyeliner. His beautiful voice complemented his looks and certainly helped Europe's rise to success, but there was no denying that these guys had the chops and the songs too. "Carrie" is one of the more essential piano ballads of the era, and "Cherokee," "Ninja," "Rock The Night," "Stormwind," and "Wings Of Tomorrow" were killer hard rock tunes. All these songs are performed to perfection in this 1986 set, where the band's professional delivery, strong backing vocals, and clean sound are all equally impressive. The transfer to DVD does the performance justice and the 5.1 surround sound and 2.0 stereo selections allow for maximum enjoyment. The previously mentioned 2006 interview makes this an essential purchase.</p> <p><u>The Bloody Truth:</u> This 1986 performance has aged very well and is proof as to why Europe gained so much success. Aside from the drum/keyboard instrumental that breaks up the continuity in the middle of the set, this hour long show is killer. Sure, everybody remembers them for the keyboard run in "The Final Countdown" but it's really the other tracks on this DVD that are the essential ones. Although the band broke up for quite a few years, they are now back together with Norum (and without Tempest's poodle-cut) and released a cd in '06 called <i>Secret Society</i>.</p>		

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