



RICK WAKEMAN

Rick Wakeman's Grumpy Old Picture Show DVD
(MVD Visual)

Rick Wakeman is one of the founding fathers of the progressive

rock keyboard pantheon as a result of both his incredible work with Yes and his legendary solo albums, such as *The Six Wives of Henry VIII*. He takes the viewer on an entertaining journey in his latest DVD, *Rick Wakeman's Grumpy Old Picture Show*.

This is by no means your usual live concert video. The format is Rick live in concert, doing a "this is your life" kind of one-man show, complete with schtick, stand-up, anecdotes, pictures and interviews. With an arsenal of keyboards at his disposal, he cleverly utilizes onstage video to play along with video clips of his fellow bandmates, his daughter and

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even himself on certain multi-layered keyboard tunes. This helps to flesh out some of the arrangements, and it generally works well. His anecdotes include stories about a vasectomy (his own) and playing a memorial service for the royal family in natty golfing attire.

The humor and stand-up is cute, but the DVD soars most when Rick really gets down to playing. I especially enjoyed his Prokofiev-like (his description) adaptation of "Eleanor Rigby," "Merlin the Magician" and excerpts from *Henry VIII* and "Starship Trooper," though the vocalist on "Starship" has a tough time filling the mighty shoes of Jon Anderson.

Rick Wakeman has had a huge impact on progressive rock keyboardists since the early 1970s. *Grumpy Old Picture Show* proves that his chops are still ferocious and his sense of humor intact, and I recommend it for progressive rock keyboard fans.

—Dave Keyes