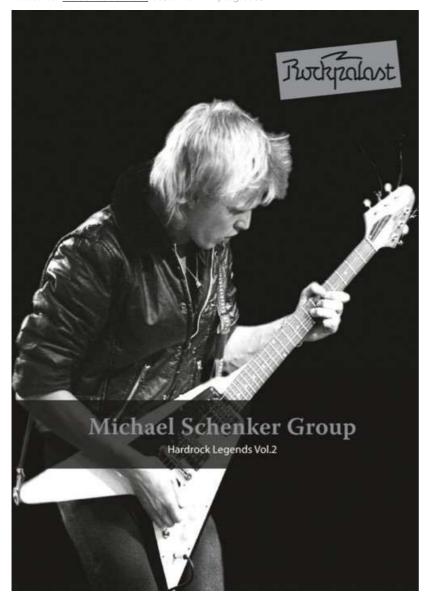
The Impaler Speaks

Michael Schenker Group – Hardrock Legends Vol. 2

@mvdentgroup A DVD I'll gladly watch over and over again. Michael **Schenker** and his band at the time are at their best in this performance. Review written for Mass Movement 33, a work in progress.



Michael Schenker Group - Hardrock Legends Vol. 2 (Rockpalast/WDR/WIG/MVD Visual)

Rockpalast, a television program that has been a staple of Germany's WDR since 1974, has teamed up with MVD Visual to release a slew of vintage episodes from the early 80's featuring the biggest names in rock 'n' roll at the time. Here we have the Michael Schenker Group in its earliest live incarnation performing at the Markthalle in Hamburg, Germany, on January 24, 1981. This show is, in a word, perfect. Schenker is clearly at the top of his game here, laying down blistering leads and dazzling solos without a misstep in sight. Why is Schenker consistently ranked as one of the greatest guitarists of all time even today? Watch this DVD and learn. From the UFO classics 'Lights Out', 'Doctor Doctor', and 'Rock Bottom' to MSG classics 'Armed And Ready' and 'Into The Arena' - and half a dozen more tracks - Schenker shines brightly throughout the performance. The lineup here includes Gary Barden on vocals, Chris Glen on bass/backing vocals, Paul Raymond on keyboards, and Cozy Powell on drums. Barden, of course, has a long and storied history with Schenker, and this performance shows why he kept getting invited back into the fold. His vocals are strong and clear, and his stage presence is captivating. Glen had the unenviable task of replacing Billy Sheehan, who joined Schenker in the studio to craft MSG's debut but left without actually becoming a



The Impaler Speaks... supporting local music worldwide, from Austin TX to the United Kingdom and everywhere else. The Impaler has been a member of the Mass Movement creative team since it was a cut-n-paste fanzine many years ago. This is a way to add some depth to the coverage I am able to provide in MM, and so much more....

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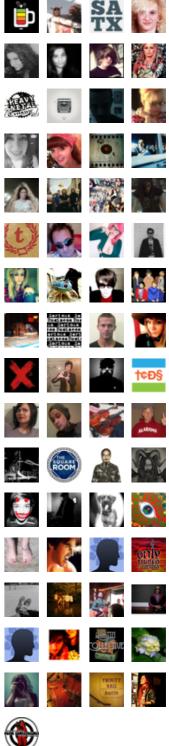




member of the band, and he did a more than adequate job. Throughout this live recording, Glen shines as brightly as any other member of the band; his backing vocals perfectly compliment Barden's leads and his bass playing keeps each song moving forward without distraction - something that cannot always be said for the ultra-showy Sheehan. Raymond's keys add texture to the material, but never take precedence, which is to say that they are perfectly placed because the whole point here is to revel in Schenker's riffs and solos. Aside from Schenker himself, the star here is the legendary Cozy Powell, whose drumming is every bit as melodic, challenging, and revolutionary as Schenker's guitar playing. The band performs as a tight unit, and coalesces perfectly at times – while jamming on the solo section of the MSG song 'Looking Out From Nowhere', for example - making this one of the most musically satisfying recorded concerts I've ever experienced. Visually, too, this DVD is damn near perfect. The cameras captured the full band and closeups of each member (including some killer shots of Powell from behind, nearly creating the effect of seeing what he sees, which is pretty cool) in a mostly conventional way; the film transfer is of such high quality that it almost appears to have been shot digitally (almost); and there are no weird effects (thankfully). While some sort of bonus material would have been more than welcome, the performance of Schenker and his band alone puts this DVD onto the short list of concert films that I will gladly watch over and over again throughout the years. The Impaler @impalerspeaks

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