

Public Image Limited Live At Rockpalast 1983 (Made In Germany Music)

Running time: 72 minutes Released February 2012

Track list: Public Image 1 / Annalisa / Religion / Memories / Flowers Of Romance / Solitaire / Chant / Anarchy In The UK / This Is Not A Love Song / Low Life / Under The House / Bad Life / Public Image 2
DVD Extras: John interviewed by Rockpalast host Alan Bangs / Rehearsal of Annalisa and Chant

The way we were........ almost 30 years ago John was riding a resurrected wave; This Is Not A Love Song charted, PiL appeared on The Tube and embarked on a tour of Europe giving most of us PiL-heads a chance to see JR in person for the first time.

This performance, filmed on 31st October at Zeche Bochum for Rockpalast TV show, is a fantastic document of PiL during this period; a far better representation of the band than the Live In Tokyo video released at the time. Shot using a terrific mix of close-ups, medium and long shots, it shows just how good this line-up actually was. Never mind the cabaret tag often levelled PiL in 1983, they were a fine live outfit.

The sound and picture quality of the DVD is superb, no annoying on-screen captions, just the uninterrupted gig. Forget any bootleg recordings you may have of the show, bin them and buy this. The definitive recording of PiL in 1983, it really does do them justice.

Highlight; Under The House featuring Louie Bernardi, Joe Guida and Martin Atkins all on drums simultaneously. We also get treated to Public Image twice. "We're not bad are we?" enquires John before Low Life. He wasn't wrong. As for me, I saw them live 10 days later............

The two extras also provide a real treat. Firstly, sound check performances of Annalisa (it takes a minute to sort the vocals!) and Chant with keyboards very high in the mix. Fabulous. Secondly, Rockpalast host Alan Bangs interviews John at the time of the show. John talks about moving to New York, the film Cop Killer (Corrupt), Live in Tokyo album, and being adored, before walking off with his can of Red Stripe because he's bored! A brilliant DVD release.

Review by Phil Singleton (29th February '12)