



by Tom Von Malder

Graham Parker & The Rumour: Live at Rockpalast 1978 + 1980 (either MIG, 2 DVDs, 144 min. or 2 CDs). Parker may have started out as part of the punk movement, but his songwriting was way beyond anything punk ever produced. His early records with The Rumour were both exhilarating and, at times, beautiful and brilliant ("Squeezing Out Sparks" album of 1979). The Rumour were made up of young musicians from British roots bands, such as Brinsley Schwartz. The 1980 show has 19 songs and the 1978 show has 15. The only repeats are "Thunder and Rain," "Don't Ask Me Questions" and "Soul Shoes." The 1980 show, which features guest Nicky Hopkins (The Beatles) on piano, highlights songs from "The Up Escalator," which was to be the group's last album together for decades. It also includes such favorites as "Stupefaction," "Jolie Jolie," "Discovering Japan," "Passion is No Ordinary Word," "Howlin' Wind," "Can't Get No Protection" and "Nobody Hurts You." The 1978 show includes "Heat in Harlem," "Stick To Me," "I'm Gonna Tear Your Playhouse Down" and "Hold Back the Night." Grade: A-