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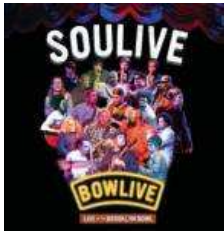
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## Reviews



### Soulive

#### Bowlive: Live at the Brooklyn Bowl DVD

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After closing the doors to fabled NYC Club "Wetlands," owner Pete Shapiro endeavored to transform a broken down warehouse in Brooklyn into a haven for good times – particularly in the forms of bowling and live music. As he puts it, once the place was built, "It was time to put the soul in The Bowl." Enter perennial funk juggernaut Soulive. In March of 2010, the three man ensemble (Eric Krasno on

guitar, Neal Evans on keys, and Alan Evans on drums) held a 10-show residency at the Brooklyn Bowl. *Bowlive* is the DVD, and for anyone up on good music, it's a must see.

If you've ever seen Soulive, you're well aware that their shows are not altogether pre-produce or formatted from one night to the next. These dudes are musicians in the truest sense and the spontaneity captured here oozes palpably. Another key element to Soulive's sets is collaboration. And while Kras and the Evans boys remain capable of wrecking shit on their own volition, they have always approached music magnanimously, ever willing to bring friends along for the ride. The *Bowlive* DVD highlights this familial vibe by pairing intimate concert footage with behind-the-scenes interviews (sometimes at once on a split screen to nice effect). Among others, the guest list boasts guitar studs Derek Trucks, Warren Haynes, and Charlie Hunter, modern rock innovators Robert Randolph and Marco Benevento, hip-hop luminaries Questlove, Talib Kweli and Rahzel, soul legend Ivan Neville, and all-around musical wunderkind, Nigel Hall.

From the blues, to the jazz, to the hip-hop, to the rock 'n roll, the soul in Soulive is the common thread binding these various influences. Evidence of the energy of the Bowlive residency is perhaps best captured when Questlove takes the stage and announces, "Bands are an endangered species," before leading the assembled players (himself, the Soulive three, the Shady Horns and Nigel Hall on vocals) through a barn-burning James Brown medley, including "Give It Up Or Turnit A Loose" and an impromptu "Soul Power." According to the interviews, the tune wasn't planned but you get the distinct feeling that this is exactly why these guys make music – to capture a moment in time and go all in. The results are organic and orgasmic, leaving little doubt as to why so many amazing talents get up to get down with Soulive. And for anyone who is unclear as to the definition of "Soul" or in peril about the current state of music and musicianship, rest assured that there is plenty of soul in the bowl, and it might well overflow.

-Jeff Artist

Tags: Questlove, Bowlive: Live at the Brooklyn Bowl DVD,

Ivan Neville, Nigel Hall, Rahzel, Soulive, Talib Kweli

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