



Concerts News & Blogs

All of Your Top Local News, Coming Events and Insider Tips from Locals
Examiner.com

Ads by Google

[Release List](#)

[Reviews](#)

[Shop](#)

[Newsletter](#)

[Forum](#)

[DVD Giveaways](#)

[Blu-Ray/ HD DVD](#)

[Advertise](#)

Reviews & Columns

Reviews

[DVD](#)
[TV on DVD](#)
[HD DVD / Blu-ray](#)
[International DVDs](#)
[Theatrical](#)
[Adult](#)
[Video Games](#)

Features

[Collector Series DVDs](#)
[Easter Egg Database](#)
[Interviews](#)
[DVD Talk Radio](#)
[Feature Articles](#)

Columns

[Anime Talk](#)
[XCritic.com](#)
[DVD Stalk](#)
[DVD Savant](#)
[High-Def Revolution](#)
[Silent DVD](#)

DVD Talk Forum

Select Forum Area...

Resources

[DVD Price Search](#)
[Customer Service #'s](#)
[RCE Info](#)
[Links](#)

DVDTalk Info

[Review Staff](#)
[About DVD Talk](#)
[Advertise](#)
[Newsletter Subscribe](#)
[Join DVD Talk Forum](#)
[DVD Talk Feeds](#)



[Get DVD Talk Feeds](#)

Special Offer

Search: For:

[Reviews](#) » [DVD Video Reviews](#) » [Heaven 17 - Live At Scala, London](#)

Heaven 17 - Live At Scala, London

[MVD Entertainment Group](#) // Unrated // February 22, 2011

List Price: \$19.95 [Buy now and save at [Amazon](#)]

Review by [Rich Rosell](#) | posted February 27, 2011 | [E-mail the Author](#) | [Start a Discussion](#)

REVIEW

When I think back to my post-punk days of the early days of the 1980s, when things went electronic and dance music made its synth-driven return Heaven 17 was one of my go-to bands. Their first two albums - *Penthouse & Pavement* (1981) and *The Luxury Gap* (1983) were the stuff of hipster cool at the time, and I'm not ashamed to say tracks like *(We Don't Need This) Fascist Groove Thing* and *Let Me Go* have remained family favorites over the years, still enjoying prominence in my iTunes library.

Damn - those are great songs. Really.

For the uninformed, Heaven 17 is three guys (Ian Craig Marsh, Martyn Ware, Glenn Gregory) who were pioneers in the whole Sheffield electronic music movement of the late 1970s, two of which (Marsh and Ware) were founding members of The Human League. While Heaven 17 now is essentially disbanded, basically relegated to reunion shows and the like, this 2005 concert recorded at London's Scala seemed poised to be closing bookend to a career that for some of us has produced some truly exciting music.

With Marsh and Ware hunkered over digital equipment at the rear of the tiny stage, Gregory is left to bound around uncomfortably, at times taking a backseat to a trio of backup singers that includes the terrific Billie Godfrey, perhaps one of the only women able to handle the iconic vocal work on the single *Temptation* that was originally sung by Carol Kenyon circa 1983.

In some cases maybe it's best just to keep those good memories where they belong. In one's mind. The thing is there's sadly something uneventful in watching a synth band perform live, with the nearly motionless Ware and Marsh left to tweak knobs and dials while Gregory does his best to present the face of Heaven 17 with a voice that has seemingly lost some of its once majestic, commanding edge. There's power and energy in the original recordings, but live it just seems off somehow. There's an awkward karaoke subtext to the performance, made even weirder by the recurring use of cheesy graphics that do nothing to solidify the experience or provide any sort of artistic balance to what is being conveyed by the music.

The band has a wonderful catalog of music, and deserves a place of imaginary honor in the annals of the electronic movement. This concert disc - not so much.

Set List:

Intro
Are You Ready?
I'm Gonna Make You Fall In Love With Me
Geish Boys & Temple Girls
Come Live With Me
(We Don't Need This) Fascist Groove Thing
What Would It Take?
Hand Up To Heaven
Into The Blue



CONTENT
 ★★★★★
VIDEO
 ★★★★★
AUDIO
 ★★★★★
EXTRAS
 ★★★★★
REPLAY
 ★★★★★
ADVICE
Skip It
E-MAIL
[this review to a friend](#)
PRINT
[Printer Friendly](#)

Popular Reviews



1. [Stand By Me](#)
2. [Tangled](#)
3. [Siren \(2010\)](#)
4. [Yogi Bear](#)
5. [The People I've Slept With](#)
6. [Devolved](#)
7. [The Ten Commandments \(Limited Edition Gift Set\)](#)
8. [Batman: The Brave and the Bold - Season One, Part Two](#)
9. [The Cove](#)
10. [Hereafter](#)

Special Offers



Crushed By The Wheels Of Industry

Let Me Go

Way It Is

Penthouse & Pavement

Temptation

Do I Believe?

Being Boiled

THE DVD

Video

The 1.78:1 anamorphic widescreen transfer is a fairly drab affair, but much of that is due to the minimal/poor stage lighting. Martyn Ware and Ian Craig Marsh are perpetually lost in shadow, while Glenn Gregory is awash in an orangey/pink bloom from the concert spots, constantly peppered by blocky pixelation. Not terribly pretty to look at, but much of the blame seems to be on the half-baked lighting scheme.

Audio

MVD concert releases typically fall short in the audio department, and this one is no exception. The 2.0 stereo mix does nothing what so ever to generate a live concert feel to the proceedings, and as a result handcuffs the entertainment value of this dramatically. The absence of any prominent bottom end reduces the satisfaction of early 80s dance hits like *Fascist Groove Thing* exponentially, and the entire presentation is flat and lifeless.

Disappointed.

Extras

Bonus features consist of a pair of interview pieces entitled *At The Gig* (09m:18s) and *At The Studio* (08m:53s). The first catches the band after the performance, with Glenn Gregory nearly hoarse, and solicits their feedback on how things went. The second segment has Gregory and Martyn Ware discussing Heaven 17 history in Ware's tiny studio, and includes some obligatory chit-chat about early days of The Human League.

The backcover lists the run as "148 minutes approx", when in reality the concert runs 106 minutes, with another 20 or so with supplemental material.

Final Thoughts

It's tough to put a finger on why this 2005 reunion performance didn't wow me, and as a Heaven 17 fan it only serves to confound me all the more. Perhaps it was the lackluster 2.0 stereo mix which just made the whole experience seem kind of dead. I'm going to hope it was that.

Rent this only if you're a diehard, and even then be prepared to be underwhelmed...

Like

Be the first of your friends to like this.

Agree?

Disagree? You can [post your thoughts](#) about this review on the DVD Talk forums.



DVD Blowouts

1. [Cleopatra](#)
Buy: ~~\$19.98~~ **\$17.49**
2. [Caddyshack \[Blu-ray\]](#)
Buy: ~~\$14.98~~ **\$6.99**
3. [300 \[Blu-ray\]](#)
Buy: ~~\$19.98~~ **\$9.99**
4. [National Velvet](#)
Buy: ~~\$5.98~~ **\$4.99**
5. [True Blood: The Complete Third Season \(HBO Series\)](#)
Buy: ~~\$59.99~~ **\$39.99**
6. [The Wedding Singer \(Totally Awesome Edition\) \[Blu-ray\]](#)
Buy: ~~\$14.98~~ **\$6.99**
7. [Masterpiece Classic: Downton Abbey \(Original UK Unedited Edition\)](#)
Buy: ~~\$34.99~~ **\$16.99**
8. [Yoga for the Rest of Us: Easy Yoga for Arthritis](#)
Buy: ~~\$19.99~~ **\$11.49**
9. [Supernatural: The Complete Fifth Season](#)
Buy: ~~\$59.98~~ **\$19.99**
10. [The Pacific \(HBO Miniseries\)](#)
Buy: ~~\$79.98~~ **\$38.99**

Special Offers

Ads by Google

[CD and DVD Cases at Neato](#)

Cheap Prices On Jewel Cases And DVD Cases. Shop At Neato.Com Today
www.neato.com

[National Fulfillment Srv.](#)

Great DVD/CD Fulfillment Services from Call Center to Distribution
www.nfsrv.com

[Columbia House DVD Club](#)

Get 3 DVDs For \$3 & Free Shipping w/ This Order.



[Heaven 17 - Live At Scala, London](#)

Heaven 17

Best Price \$9.50
or Buy New \$17.49



[Privacy Information](#)

Shipping in the Green!
Join Us Right Now!
columbiahouse.com

[Burn Fat Kickboxing](#)

Burn 700 calories with Chalene in just 45 minutes. As seen on TV!
www.Beachbody.com/TurboJam

[Need Quality DVD Storage?](#)

Low price towers & cabinets. Money back guarantee.
www.storeyoumedia.com

[Release List](#)

[Reviews](#)

[Shop](#)

[Newsletter](#)

[Forum](#)

[DVD Giveaways](#)

[Blu-Ray/ HD DVD](#)

[Advertise](#)

Copyright 2011 DVDTalk.com All Rights Reserved. [Legal Info](#), [Privacy Policy](#), [Terms of Use](#)