



Johnny Winter: Live From Japan (MVD Visual DVD, NR, 86 min.). The concert was recorded on April 15, 2011 in Tokyo, the final night of a three-night stand. The band includes Winter on guitar and vocals, Paul Nelson on guitar, Scott Spray on bass and Vito Liuzzi on drums and vocals (he sings lead on the rocker "Tore Down"). One nice part of the presentation is the frequent close-ups of Winter's fingers while he is playing.

However, as always, it is the music that is impressive, ranging from Freddie King's "Hideaway" to the bluesy trio of "Sugar Coated Love" and "She Likes to Boogie Real Low" (it is wonderful how Winter's guitar answers his vocal lines). After a brief interview bit about working with Muddy Waters, it is back to onstage and a cover of Waters' "Got My Mojo Working." A rocking "Johnny B. Goode" follows, before it is back to the blues with "Blackjack" (a tribute to Ray Charles). The blues of "Don't Take Advantage of Me" turns into a rocking "Bonie Maronie" and "It's All Over Now" (popularized by the Rolling Stones). For the encores of "Dust My Broom" and "Highway 61," Winter plays his 1964 Gibson Firebird slide guitar. **Grade: A**

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