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IN STORES NOW

- > Time Trax – The Complete Second Season (1994/Warner Archives DVD Set)
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- > Top Gear USA – Season 3 (2012 – 2013/BBC DVD Set)
- > Call The Midwife: Season 2 (2013/BBC DVD Set)

**Ritchie Blackmore's Rainbow: Black Masquerade** (1995/Rockpalast/Eagle DVD)/**Simon Rumley Trilogy: Strong Language** (2000)/**The Truth Game** (2001) and **Club Le Monde** (2002/MVD/Jinga DVDs)

Picture: C+/C-/C/C+ Sound: C+ Extras: C/C/C+/C+ Main Programs: B-/B-/C+/C+

Now for some new Rock and Pop Music oriented releases that have their moments...

**Ritchie Blackmore's Rainbow: Black Masquerade** is simply a

solid 1995 appearance on the great German music TV series **Rockpalast** and this 17-song, 103-minutes-long set of songs is here on DVD from Eagle in as good a DVD as we are likely to see of the show. With Blackmore more than able on guitar and Doogie White the lead singer, the band does a great job on songs like *Too Late For Tears*, *Long Live Rock 'N' Roll*, *Man On The Silver Mountain*, *Ariel*, *Since You've Been Gone*, *Burn* and *Smoke On The Water*. Though the show is a more recent taping relatively, it has the energy, feel and richness of the 1970s and is another welcome Rockpalast DVD release.

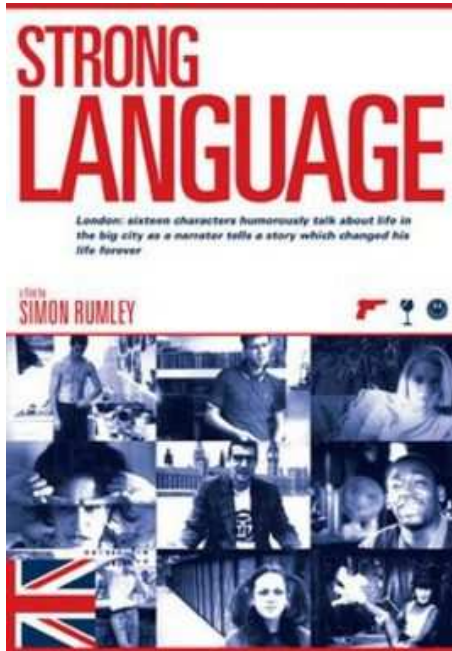
The actual taping is not bad, more kinetic than many HD concerts we have seen of late and is a pleasant surprise. Even non-fans of the act or the music will be impressed.

An illustrated booklet with text in the DVD case it the only extra, but you can see more on Blackmore by looking up our many Deep Purple reviews or seeing a great concert they performed **Live In Munich 1977** on DVD at this link:

<http://www.fulvuedrive-in.com/review/4283/Rainbow+%E2%80%93+Live+in+Munich>

Next we have three independent feature films on the 1990s clubbing, dating and wild behavior day in Britain on three separate DVDs that make up the **Simon Rumley Trilogy**. Each are worth a look and include **Strong Language** (2000), which is 80 minutes of nearly a dozen 20-ish people talking about life, love, insanity, annoyance and hilarity on the fast-paced scene that also marked the last big Brit Pop music cycle (Blur and Pulp are rightly celebrated, while Oasis is rightly mocked often) and other subject covered include favorite albums, favorite movies, sex, AIDS, politics, sex and the lack of opportunity for their generation in the UK. It is the best of the three entries and the most purely British of the trilogy. A shame this took so long to get to the U.S. market.

**The Truth Game** (2001) is more of a narrative film as several couples get together for dinner and all have suppressed feelings, secrets, activities and even desires that will all happen to come to the fore as they get together for a meal that none of them will ever forget. Rumley says he was inspired



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(2013/BBC Blu-ray)  
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 > The Great Gatsby (2013/Warner Blu-ray 3D + Blu-ray + DVD & Ultraviolet Copy)  
 > NCIS: Los Angeles – The Fourth Season (2012 – 2013/CBS DVD Set)  
 > The Last Tycoon (2012/Well Go USA Blu-ray)  
 > NCIS – 10th Season (2012 – 2013/CBS DVD Set)  
 > Touched By An Angel: Season 8 (2001 – 2002/CBS DVD Set)  
 > From Up On Poppy Hill (2011/Studio Ghibli/Cinedigm Blu-ray w/DVD)  
 > Love Is All You Need (2012/Sony DVD)  
 > The Gangster (2012/aka Antapal/Magnolia/Magnet Blu-ray)

by Richard Linklater to become a director and that is apparent here and in the next film, in part because of the laid back feel of the two films and worse, the Britishness prevalent in **Strong** starts to dissipate and wear away here, though this never becomes a formulaic mumblecore film. The racing cars in between some of the scenes look like a knock-off of a good Blur Music Video and is overdone.

**Club Le Monde** (2002) is wilder taking place at the title club complete with stupid behavior, goofy drug use, high risk behavior, betrayals, drag queens, wacky comment (and commentary) and a host who speaks to the audience in the opening and closing of the film that backfires in some ways. In all three cases, the mostly unknown actors do a great job playing their parts, though this hardly is trying to be Italian Neo-Realism, yet they are key works of a time and place ignored by stuffy British TV and too few great independent films coming out of that great country and its often great cinema. Be sure to catch them all.

Extras on all three **Rumley** DVDs include Premiere Featurettes, while **Strong** and **Club** add Original Theatrical Trailers, **Truth** and **Club** add feature length audio commentary tracks and **Club** also has Deleted Scenes aka *Out Takes* and an unlisted Stills Gallery.

The 1.33 X 1 on **Rainbow** may be slightly soft and color might bleed at times from its original PAL analog taping, but it looks pretty good for its age and being taped when it was likely helped. The anamorphically enhanced 1.78 X 1 image on **Strong** was shot on digital video and this looks like a rough second generation copy with its share of aliasing errors and staircasing, which disappoints. That leaves the letterboxed 1.85 X 1 on **Truth** and letterboxed 1.66 X 1 image **Club** better, both originating on Fuji 35mm color film stocks, but not going anamorphic leaves **Truth** softer than it should be too and **Club** at almost as much of a disadvantage while both print show some dirty.

The DTS 5.1 mix on **Rainbow** should be the best sonic presentation here, but it is a rough one since the original source is simple stereo at best and a little compressed, which can be heard on the lossy Dolby Digital 2.0 Stereo and lossy Dolby 5.1 mixes. All three **Rumley** DVDs have lossy Dolby Digital 2.0 Stereo mixes that have their own audio limits (partly due to budget and recording circumstances) and are the equal of the older concert DVD, so all audio is equal in these releases.

- Nicholas Sheffo

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