



## **The Original Country Joe Band Turned Up And Turned On**

Secret Films SMADVD238X \* \* \*

Keeping the Woodstock spirit alive

It's not every day that a living icon of the late 60's counter culture turns up to play on your doorstep but that's exactly what happened at Southsea's South Parade Pier in June 2004 when the Original Country Joe Band took to the stage and thankfully some forward thinking people were on hand to capture the historic happenings on film. Country Joe could have been forgiven for thinking his anti war protest days were well behind him but with first the Gulf War and now the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan in full swing and reunited with David Bennett Cohen, Bruce Barthol and Chicken Hirsch from the classic Fish line up you could argue the times have never been riper for the veterans like Country Joe to once again stick their heads above the barricades. This showcase of San Francisco psychedelic folk revisited documents Country Joe's 19 song set in its entirety including such highlights as Superbird ( here aimed at George W Bush rather than its original Presidential target Lyndon Johnson ), the self explanatory Cakewalk To Baghdad, Section 43, Bass Strings, Rock & Soul Music and, inevitably, I Feel Like I'm Fixing To Die Rag which features Country Joe on trombone and comes introduced with the infamous Fish Cheer all of which acts as a surreal reminder of Woodstock. Also included is a pre show interview during which Country Joe reminds everyone that despite his weighty credentials as an activist he was actually an enlistee in the US Navy before finding his true vocation as a protest singer.

- Grahame Bent