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Sixties, Seventies icons shine on DVD

By [Tom Von Malder](#)

Donovan: The Donovan Concert: Live in L.A. (MVD Visual DVD, 78 min.).

Originally shown on PBS, this Jan. 21, 2007 concert at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood was a benefit of the David Lynch Foundation for Consciousness-Based Education and World Peace (it funds in-school Transcendental Meditation programs for at-risk youth), and the Sixties folk-pop superstar recalls his visits to India, sometimes with the Beatles, to study meditation. (In fact, Donovan finally sings the "long lost" George Harrison-penned verse for "Hurdy Gurdy Man.")

Donovan is in top form and wins the viewer over with his talking-singing introductions to most songs. He covers most of his early classics, including "There is a Mountain," "Catch the Wind" (with harmonica), "Colours," "Happiness Runs" (dividing the audience into males and females to sing the round parts), "Jennifer Jupiter," "Sunshine Superman," "Season of the Witch" and "Mellow Yellow" (being joined by Beach Boy Mike Love — appropriately in a yellow sports jacket — and his own daughter Astrella Celeste). Father and daughter also sing Astrella's "Dream." The only other cover song is Buffy Sainte Marie's "Universal Soldier." After the 13-song concert, a bonus feature is four more songs: "Lalena" (inspired by German actress Lotta Lenya), the lengthy, but nice "Sand and Foam" (about a trip to Mexico), "There is an Ocean" (again with Astrella) and a new song, "The Illusion," from his upcoming "Ritual Groove" album (its lyrics discuss the "blood-red corridors of power" and secret armies that watch us day and night). My only regret is that he did not sing "Atlantis" (nor "I Love My Jeans" for that matter).

Grade A