

## **Bernie Worrell**

Stranger: Bernie Worrell  
On Earth

★★★★

MVD Visual MVDV 4618

### **The special genius of The Wizard Of WOO**

He starts studying piano aged three, writes his first concerto aged eight and performs with the Washington Symphony Orchestra aged 10. He's been compared to Beethoven, Charlie Parker and Jimi Hendrix, made his name as the musical director of Parliament/Funkadelic, and is, of course, Bernie Worrell, aka the wonderful Wizard Of WOO.

This bittersweet, award-winning documentary charts the ups and downs in the career of one of the most unassuming, yet hugely influential, musicians of the last four decades via the usual mix of live and verité footage, plus interviews with a virtual who's who of his peers and collaborators, including David Byrne, Bootsy Collins, Prince Paul, Bill Laswell and George Clinton, who all virtually queue up to pay tribute to his unique genius. The sobering downside to all the tributes is the way the film interweaves the unglamorous reality of Worrell's daily struggle to continue working and make ends meet, despite being one of the most sampled and revered musicians on the planet. This wonderful DVD also features 60 minutes of additional interviews and bonus studio footage of Bernie working on his *Improvsczario* album in 2005. *Grahame Bent*