



'Live Through the '70's,' Johnny Winter

(MVDvisual, • 4 stars)

This Nov. 11 DVD release reminds me of one of the favorite albums of my youth, "Johnny Winter And Live."

Johnny Winter And was the name of Johnny's band at the time, which included Rick Derringer (whose biggest solo hit was Johnny's "Rock & Roll Hoochie Koo") and powerhouse drummer Bobby Caldwell (who is featured on some songs here). This wonderful live document featured Johnny's driving blues/rock and classic rock 'n' roll, Rick's driving oldies medley, and the most rhythmically complex drumming ever. The DVD features lots of archival TV footage from eras before and after that one, minus Derringer but with loads of other players, including Johnny's brother Edgar Winter.

Highlights include an early version of Edgar's big hit "Frankenstein" with no synthesizers and more double drumming. Johnny's evolution, an early romp through "Hoochie Koo" playful interviews, and many more blues-based blazers that show what a vital guitar hero he was. Grab this one at local audio/video stores or online at www.mvdb2b.com

- Ricky Flake