

DVD Round Up

Rush Snakes And Arrows Live Eagle Vision

Some statements can be a little expansive and over the top but I can seriously say, in my humble opinion, that this triple DVD package is the best I have ever had in my possession. Rush are one of the finest exponents of technological rock, progressive rock or whatever you want to call it and all this coming from a three-piece band that don't use much in the way of overblown keyboards.

They have, as an asset, a massively talented drummer, bass man and guitarist that never seem to be overwhelmed by giant light shows and stages as wide as a football pitches, they simply fit perfectly in to the arena environment as can be witnessed on this visual record. It was filmed in Rotterdam, Holland before a packed crowd opening with a short movie with the three main men as the stars. You have to see the out-takes to appreciate the full humour where Geddy Lee becomes Scottish and Alex Lifeson a goofy mountie among other amusing moments. This after witnessing a fantastic stage show where Limelight opens followed by a host of classics including Digital Man, The Main Monkey Business, Subdivisions, The Spirit Of Radio and Tom Sawyer!

Disc 3 has Oh Atlanta! The Authorized Bootlegs that includes the wonderful Ghost Of A Chance, Red Barchetta and The Trees concluded by 2112: The Temples of Syrinx.

Rush has never been a band that I could go on Mastermind and answer questions about but I am a periphery fan that appreciates the music of many and this is the ideal companion for the heavily dedicated fan or those that just appreciate good rock music when they hear it! This is the true spirit of DVD! *Martin Hudson*



John Mayall's Bluesbreakers Live At Iowa State University Quantum Leap

This 85 minute DVD features a mid 80's concert by the then new incarnation of The Bluesbreakers featuring future solo stars in their own right Coco Montana and Walter Trout. It is exactly what you would expect from someone with Mayall's pedigree, a set of blistering Blues at which he excels in the live arena. Extra features include band biography and discography. *Steve Ward*

Talk Talk Live At Montreux 1986 Eagle Vision

Recorded at the height of their commercial success in 1986 this is the first ever DVD release by British pop outfit Talk Talk. Their style straddled New Wave and synth pop and is very much of it's time and in truth hasn't aged particularly well although the 80's audience lap it up. Sure to be snapped up by fans but probably of little interest to non-converts. *Steve Ward*

Desperately Seeking Paul McCartney DVD BRI Video

In 1965 Ruth Anson was a teenage reporter for ABC-TV news and, whilst interviewing The Beatles, asked Paul McCartney if he had any plans to marry to which he replied, Only If You'll Marry Me.

Fast forward 41-years and this mockumentary follows the now middle-aged Anson as she attempts to contact McCartney to gain some closure as she has wondered for four decades, What If I'd Said Yes?

"WARNING TO BEATLES FANS" - The few brief seconds of original 1965 footage is McCartney's only appearance and the twelve songs on the soundtrack are new "Beatles Style" songs performed by a tribute band. Only the most avid Beatles anorak will find anything remotely interesting in this pointless drivel, the rest of us should play Sergeant Peppers immediately and despatch this where it belongs - in the bin. *Steve Ward*

Sparks Dee Vee Dee - Sparks At The London Forum Liberation Entertainment

In which the world's greatest art-rock sibling duo bring their unique brand of genius to a sold-out London venue, as part of their 2006 tour. The first set is a breath-taking reproduction of the whole of their classic 'Hello Young Lovers' album, in which Russell flies around belting out superb rapid-fire vocals, and Ron, when not playing keyboards gets to fight a cartoon caricature of himself,

courtesy of the giant screen that bombards you at break-neck speed with images from the quirky songs. The music is really reproduced well, both by electronic means, and by their excellent backing band, who, during the HYL set, are clad in dark colours, and keep a low profile. 'Perfume', 'Metaphor', 'Waterproof', etc come across brilliantly - but of course, the highlight is a certain very graphically-illustrated masterpiece entitled 'Dick Around'.

The second set is much more conventional, with the band playing their full part, as the brothers take you through favourites from their illustrious catalogue... 'The Number 1 Song In Heaven', 'Achoo', 'Never Turn Your Back On Mother Earth', and, of course, 'This Town Ain't Big Enough For The Both Of Us' are among the gems. Perhaps the most significant happening, though, occurs at the end of the show, when Russell and Ron perform one or two numbers as a duo: they close with a reprise of 'Dick Around', showing that this awesome creation now ranks as one of the definitive Sparks classics. Quite simply, this package is a must for all lovers of innovative, melodic musical theatre. *Dave Winstanley*

Within Temptation Black Symphony Roadrunner Records

If you are into the goth, prog metal scene, somewhat like Nightwish, then you will love this. Recorded live with a full orchestra, and choir, all dressed in monks habits, on a large stage with a giant screen at the back, in front of a very large appreciative audience. This is very very impressive. The programme opens with a long orchestral piece, filmed in black and white, this is a very beautiful piece, as it ends the band join the stage and we go into full colour.

Filmed with 14 high definition camera's, this is a production on a huge scale, bombastic and quite majestic. Despite the large amount of people on stage, not to mention the camera men and those operating the screen, everything seems to go like clockwork.

This is a production on a large and impressive scale, and is matched by 21 (plus the overture) impressive songs. Sharon Den Adel has a superb voice, and dresses in some amazing outfits. If I had any criticism at all, I would have been happier if some of the vocals had been shared a bit more. Some tracks had a duet style with other band members, but the wailing style of vocals, (which I love by the way) was for me a little too much by the end of 21 songs.

This however is only a minor point, and if you love this style of music you will be hard pressed to find a more impressive production than this. Quite superb. *Steve Mourton*

Shawn Mullins Live at the Variety Playhouse Vanguard Records

This live recording was brought to life in Mullins' hometown of Atlanta. Best known for his excellent hit record Lullaby, which he saves for the encore, Mullins performs two sets in the cozy theatre setting. The first half is as a solo performance and the second with his band and wearing a cap! He seems equally at home in either setting as an enthusiastic home crowd warms to him. It is a pity he kind of disappeared off the radar this side of the pond as he is a great talent.

This is one of those wholesome American folk / rock shows that you just lay back and enjoy - for 74 minutes! *McCullough Crane*

Jan Akkerman Live in Concert (The Hague 2007) CD / DVD Digimode Entertainment

Starting out with a variation on Answers Questions Jan Akkerman pleases the Dutch crowd by filling his set with lots of Focus material as well as his more recent solo stuff. He was voted Best Guitarist in the World in 1973 by Melody Maker readers - I probably voted for him. He remains a dextrous guitarist and with a fine band brings it all back to life.

The DVD includes a brilliant Bluejam with Jan For All Ages (literally) proving how wide his range of styles on the guitar are. This is an open air event with a cast of many and an amused audience too. There is also a solo show from Amsterdam which clocks in at 34 minutes. He is still a favourite of the older prog, jazz and blues fans the world over and a master of the instrument. Of the tracks House Of The King becomes Palace Of The King, Tranquilizer is a superb laid back affair and by the time Urban String opens the encore you could be dancing.

Martin Hudson

Iggy Pop Lust For Life ABC Voiceprint

This is a 1986 film that catches Iggy on tour and away from the stage for a series of interviews that covers his career up to that time. There's in concert footage too and for the dedicated fan Stooges guitarist Ron Asheton talks too about his relationship with one of rock's elder statesmen. *Alan Egerton*

