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U2 – Achtung Baby – A Classic Album Under Review



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Despite Bono's commendable fight for Africa, against poverty and for civil rights, I am no larger a fan of U2 now than I was when I felt they peaked in the 1980s. I give them credit for surviving, though Bono's work outside the band almost ended the band. Being as popular as they are, they are one of the only bands to have titles in all three optical video formats, as the following links show:

Rattle & Hum Blu-ray

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The first is one of the poorest music films ever made, while the latter celebrates one of the most overrated of albums. It is with great irony that the **Under Review** series sudden coverage of classic albums would take on the other most overrated U2 album ever, **Achtung Baby**. Not only does it feature two of their most annoying hits, *One* and *Even Better Than The Real Thing*, but also has a song specifically for one of Wim Wenders's worst films, **Until The End Of The World**.

The pretentious connection between Wenders and the band produced a phoniness the band has never matched before or since. As I watched this hour-long program, the predictable pre-calculation of the albums making was so much so that this showed a band on automatic pilot beyond belief. All the experts showing up to tell us how great the album is become increasingly bizarre, so much so that you actually have to see it to believe it.

At least the band proved they could take risks with the likes of the grossly underrated **Pop** album, but fans seem happier with the cool-burn complacently of something like this and it is no wonder the Rock genre is

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in such a sorry state. Fans will say the lesser-known tracks are not being addressed and some of them are better, but not enough to garnish all this praise. At least the quality of this video production is good.

The 1.33 originated on professional analog PAL video and is somewhat soft throughout, while the Dolby Digital 2.0 Stereo is simple at best with no surrounds. It is watchable, though it reminds us how old this album really is. Extras include text bios of the interviewees, the toughest quiz on the band “ever” (though it is the weakest in this DVD series to date, being too easy before watching the program) and bonus interview footage not in the main program.

Needless to say, this is for fans only or those who are not and need a good laugh.

- Nicholas Sheffo



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