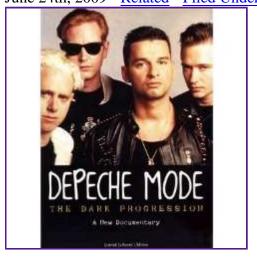
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Depeche Mode The Dark Progression DVD Review

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Depeche Mode- A Dark Progression is a documentary about the British Alternative band, Depeche Mode.

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Lasting 92 minutes, it features interviews with some of the other synth heavy artists from the early 80's, such as Thomas Dolby, Gary Newman and Andy McCluskey from Orchestral Manovers in the Dark as well as former DM producers.

The documentary starts basically from day one and follows the band as they release their cheeriest album, Speak and Spell and almost immediately lose their incredibly talented frontman Andy Clark. Featuring interviews and video clips from contemporaries such as Gary Newman and Kraftworks, we get a view of the overall evolution of Synth Music and Depeche Mode's role in it's evolution. It was definitely a collection of deja vu moments for me, watching the videos for Cars and Auto-Bahn as well as Depeche Mode classice all the way back to New Life.

Although the bandmembers themselves are not featured in any interviews, you do get some nice live performances and video clips and overall the dvd is well paced and informative enough that their presence is not missed.

Playing for the Masses is a short interview piece lasting just under 11 minutes. It features more interview pieces with Andy McCluskey and Thomas Dolby as they discuss touring with the band and playing for a sold out crowd for the Music For the Masses tour. Although I did not see it at the Rose Bowl, I did actually go to that concert tour and must say it was phenominal(SP). It was near the peak of Depeche Mode's popularity and the energy from the crowd fueled their performance, making it one of my top 5 concerts. The other extra is in the form of short biography pages for the contributing artists.

Fans of Depeche Mode and music buffs in general will get a lot from this release. Along with U2, DM is a band who has done quite well at adapting to the times to keep their sound fresh. As a result, they have a career that has lasted from the early 80's and is still producing quality records today. This is a fairly thorough documentary on not just Depeche Mode but on the electronic synth music scene in general. Recommended

Special Features:

Playing For The Masses Artist Bios

Depeche Mode- The Dark Progression is available now, courtesy of MVD releasing and Sexy Intellectual.

To switch for Depeche Mode- The Dark Progression or to purchase it from Amazon.com, click here.

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