

Gapplegate Guitar and Bass Blog

Grego Applegate Edwards Blogs on Guitarists, Bassists, Musicians & Music

Classical-Modern Music Review
Gapplegate Music Store
Gapplegate Guitar and Bass Blog 2
Gapplegate Music Review Blog
Grego's Yakety-Yak



Tuesday, July 19, 2011

"Robert Plant's Blue Note" DVD Traces A Long and Fruitful Career in Music



When Robert Plant hit the grooves and airwaves with Led Zeppelin as I was coming of age, I have to say that I took him for granted. A supercharged instrument at a time when so much was going on in rock, he stood out as coming out of the blues, but went beyond to forge a style tremendously influential in what eventually was known as metal. If I paid more attention at the time to what was happening

instrumentally, it was to my temporary loss. Of course he was more than just a rock screamer. As a soon-to-be-released DVD *Robert Plant's Blue Note* (Sexy Intellectual SIDVD567) shows clearly, he was and is a complex character with diverse interests, influences and a long career of stylistic change and development.

The video documents the shifting scene around him from the early-mid sixties onwards and his engagement with it. There is a fairly detailed look at the British blues boom of the '60s, spawned by a tepid pop scene and the infusion

About This Blog

Grego Applegate Edwards writes this column.

The Gapplegate Guitar and Bass Blog covers music releases of interest to guitarists, bassists, vocalists, musicians and other creative people. It is also for the music lover who does not play but instead forms the core audience musicians most love. You are in the inner circle of the "true listeners." If you care about what you hear and want to know more about what is out there, you are the person I have in mind as I write these postings. If music isn't an important part of your life this blog is probably not for you.

Various musical genres get attention on these pages: jazz and rock with guitarists and/or bassists playing a prominent role, classical music for the guitar, world music, blues, roots, electric music, vocalists.

This site has become the primary guitar-bass blog for Gapplegate. The blog now found at www.gapplegate.com/musicalbum.html has become its supplement. I plan to stop maintaining that site rather soon, because the guitar business side of my activities is coming to an end.

through imported records and personal appearances in England of the great black artists with their iconic excitement and sheer power. The general scene and Plant's eventual involvement with it are covered with depth and insight. The DVD goes on to look at the formation of Plant's own band, the subsequent formation of Led Zeppelin and the dynamic Page-Plant dialog, the expansion of the band from a quasi-hard-blues to a metal and progressive outfit, and then Plant's long solo career and his flirtation with popular synth-based styles, his return to metal, his renewed involvement with the psychedelic sounds of the late '60s California world, and finally his growth through involvement in North African/Mideastern music styles and ultimately roots-folk and country.

This is a long and detailed DVD (155 minutes) allowing for lots of interview footage of Plant and his contemporaries along with select musical journalists. There's a very fair amount of concert footage of Plant and others in the course of the presentation. And there is an overarching narrative with a main theme, Plant's fascination and immersion in the "blue note," the intervals and bending tones of the blues.

There are many little assertions and details I might take exception to here. They are essentially about musical issues that would take us far beyond the scope of this review blurb, having to do with the roots of blues in Africa, the status of non-blues music in relation to the blues, and such like things. It's enough to say that I don't always completely agree with some of the points raised by the journalists on the DVD.

In the end though what matters is that you finish watching this longish DVD with a renewed appreciation of Plant as a musical force, his respect for the black music and world music roots he has engaged in various ways, and an appreciation for the open-ended nature of his musical quest. Mr. Plant is more than just an extraordinary vocalist. He has had an important musical stylistic influence on everything from metal to world-infused rock.

I don't think anyone with a serious interest in the history of rock and or Plant the artist will be disappointed in this DVD. It is well done.

Posted by Grego Applegate Edwards at 5:00 AM

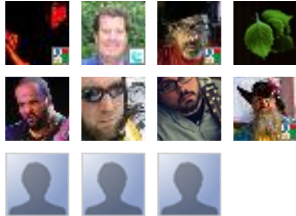
I cover other jazz and improvisation on the Gapplegate Music Review blog (see link on this page) and modern classical and avant garde concert music on the new blogsite Classical-Modern Music Review (see link).

All material copyright 2007-11 by Grego Applegate Edwards.

Followers

Join this site with Google Friend Connect

Members (11)



Already a member? [Sign in](#)

Blog Archive

▼ 2011 (154)

► August (4)

▼ July (21)

Johnny Winter Shines Forth on DVD "Live at Rockpal...

Les Doigts de l'Homme Rechannel Django Reinhardt w...

New Elysian Fields [Last Night On Earth] Filled wi...

Terakaft's "Aratan N Azawad": Electric Music from ...

Latin Bassoon? Daniel Smith's "Bassoon Goes Latin..."

Labels: blues and rock history, british blues and rock, gapplegate guitar review of "robert plant's blue note" dvd, led zeppelin, robert plant, rock history, rock vocalists

0 comments:

Post a Comment

Comment as:

[Newer Post](#)

[Home](#)

[Older Post](#)

Subscribe to: [Post Comments \(Atom\)](#)

Inzinzac: Avant
Philadelphia Musical
Madness At It...

Young Bassist Michael
Feinberg Presents
Second Alb...

Master Sarodist Amjad Ali
Khan's "Samaagam" for
Sa...

"Robert Plant's Blue Note"
DVD Traces A Long and
F...

Guitarist Chris Taylor
Makes Some Great
Sounds on ...

Cold Cave's Second: Cherish
the Light Years

Cinzia Spata Sings "Into the
Moment": A Vocalist f...

"Level" by Guitarist Eric
Hofbauer and the
Infrare...

Tune-Yards Break the
Mould with Second
Release "Wh...

Bassist Sam Trapchak's
Band Put Together Funny
Deb...

Guitarist Pedro Gomes,
Trumpeter Sei Miguel
Contr...

The Unthanks Continue
Their Modern-Ancient
Folk Ba...

Travis Reuter Takes Guitar
and Ensemble On An
Even...

Coyote Poets of the
Universe Return with
"Pandora'...

Dominic Duval and Cecil
Taylor, The Last Dance

Guitarist Torben Waldorff
Waxes Lyrical and Then
T...

- ▶ June (21)
- ▶ May (23)
- ▶ April (22)
- ▶ March (23)
- ▶ February (20)
- ▶ January (20)
- ▶ 2010 (353)
- ▶ 2009 (142)

About Me



Grego
Applegate
Edwards
New York City
Metro Area,
United States

I've spent my life making and listening to music, editing, writing and trying to put food on the table. I've gone to music schools (Berklee College of Music, Contemporary School of Music), gotten advanced degrees in various related subjects (New York University, University of Chicago), written novels and been a working stiff like you. The rest is cannon fodder for those who steal identities, isn't it? Oh yes, I also write for Cadence, a periodical covering jazz and improv music, and All About Jazz, a website devoted to . . . guess! I ran a guitar shop for a while. That was interesting. I am finishing up some solo-improvisational CDs and then am going back to work on some new cross-tempo-ed ensemble pieces. That's what I do. . . some of it anyway.

[View my complete profile](#)

Links of Interest

No Business Records
Northern-Spy Records
Delmark Records
World Village Records
Innova Records
Matador Records
CIMP Records

ESP Disk
Kscope Records
Tzadik Records