

The Quireboys Live in London

added: 23 Sep 2013 // release date: 23 Sep 2013
certificate: E (exempt) // director:

D REVIEW

lio: Wienerworld // film length 50min
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It's been a long time coming... but finally, this first ever live TV recording of **The Quireboys** – shot at London's *Town & Country Club* in Oct 1992, and at the peak of their career – is bound to make their many fans happy, although perfectionists might beg to differ.

The set as captured on this DVD boasts The Quireboys' greatest hits, and sure enough, they threw an electrifying show that had the crowd at their feet. Btw, their debut album 'A Bit Of What You Fancy' reached #2 on the UK charts in 1990, two years before the *Town & Country Club* concert (and one year before them boys first disbanded). It's evident that the band rode on the crest of a wave, with their fans just as excited about their success.

First, we see some rather rough looking film footage depicting various punters waiting outside the venue and proudly displaying their tickets, before the camera pans to the stage door direction. Next, the stage becomes visible, and the familiar cheese grater-voice of frontman **Spike Gray** greets the crowd with "Hello, how are ya doing?" before promising everyone "some good English rock 'n' roll". He ain't kidding either, as the band blast in with 'Tramps And Thieves' – the first number leaving no doubt as to the stuff the band is made of.

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led by **Guy Griffin** and **Guy Bailey** on guitars, **Nigel Mogg** on bass, **Chris Johnstone** on keys, and **Rudy Man** on drums, the line-up alone assured an unforgettable show – not least because their devilish swagger perfectly matched their rousing hot tunes. Spike – then and now – must be one of the very few figures in the rock firmament who effortlessly cuts a cool figure even in wearing a suit!

led', 'White Trash Blues' and 'Roses And Rings' all feature, the players mastering their tools with ease and perfection while having a fine time on stage. Spike demonstrates his skills on the harmonica during 'Don't Bite The Hand (That Feeds You)' and '7 O'Clock', though for the remainder of the show he prefers to dance and kick about with the mic stand. During 'Hey You', the band's signature hit, Guy Griffin throws in a bad-ass slide solo, while Guy Bailey – sporting his trademark top hat – dutifully works his mojo, er... guitar, and spins out honey halfway through 'King Of New York'. It's interesting to note that Health And Safety regulations back then were obviously a lot more relaxed, given that fact that Mr. Bailey sports a top hat in his mouth pretty much throughout the stage time.

→ 'To You (Baby Just Walk)' is purest adrenalin – a swampy, sleazy and R&B infused riff rocker that sees the band at fever pitch, and it's truly gagging for more.

Chris Johnstone's touchy-feely keyboard play marks the intro to 'I Don't Love You Anymore' – sung with passion and emotion by Spike, though to be fair a great deal here is actually sung by the audience! Spike jokingly acknowledges this by remarking, "Here's to a round of applause... good singing tonight!" Unfortunately, the magic of the song is destroyed by the onset of credits rolling across the screen, but it's the number 'Long Time Comin' which spoils it completely: viewers only get treated to half of it (probably not even that) because suddenly, A CENTRAL PRODUCTION logo appears, followed by the gradual fade-out of the song. Long time comin', and short time playin'! If graceful, there's no other way of putting it.

rious downer aside, the picture quality is surprisingly good. Same can be said for the sound, though I'm not altogether sure the featured tracks make up the entire show... During some songs, Spike can be seen wearing a sweat-drenched waistcoat, followed by other shots during which he suddenly wears his jacket again...

→ this DVD should be treated as a little gem and a collector's piece, while at the same time it's also a reminder that **The Quireboys** and their repertoire still rock, and continue to do so!

TRACKS:

Tramps and Thieves
Can't Park Here
Disleaded
White Trash Blues
Roses and Rings
Don't Bite the Hand
King Of New York
Hey You
To You
Brother Louie
7 O'Clock
I Don't Love You Anymore
Long Time Comin'

Give Your Say




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