



DVD Review - BIG AUDIO DYNAMITE LIVE: E=MC2

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Posted by [Collider](#)

Reviewed by Nico

In the beginning, there was The Clash... and it was good. After The Clash, Mick Jones formed Big Audio Dynamite... and it was also good. Big Audio Dynamite's second album *The Globe* was the soundtrack to my high school experience. It included a live version of a song *Can't Wait*. It took me forever to actually realize the track was live because the sound was so tight. These eight songs prove that wasn't a fluke.

It's hard to classify the sound of Big Audio Dynamite, because it transcends genre. It's, from the first note on, a huge departure from The Clash. It has great pop hooks that make you bob your head along to the beat. They consistently use dialogue samples as an additional instrument. Some tracks like *I Don't Know* have an almost disco-like rhythm section. If I had to boil down their sound into simple terms, I would say they play "feel good" music as you can't help but smile when you listen.

Big Audio Dynamite Live: E=MC2 lensed at the Town and Country Club in London England. The casual music listener should recognize at least two of the tracks from this collection – *Rush* and *The Globe*, not to mention their cover of Prince's *1999* that closes the set out. Being a Prince fan as well, it was fantastic to hear their interpretation that is somehow faithful to both the source material and, at the same time, the overall BAD II vibe.

In total, the set lasts for almost fifty minutes and is a perfect time capsule that captures the energy and joy of Big Audio Dynamite's music. My only real criticism would be that they left me wanting more – which is the sign of a good performance.

VIDEO/AUDIO/EXTRAS

Sure, this is a large club show and over a decade old, but the production value and sound will not disappoint. The box for the DVD says that you can switch your amplifier to activate simulated 5.1 surround sound "to enhance this archive recording." There is a track selection feature included so you can jump right to your favorite song of the eight.

The DVD includes previews for six other releases: *Cabaret Voltaire: Live at the Hacienda*, *Carter USM Splash It All Over*, *E. Neubauten: Halber Mensch*, *Momus: Man of Letters*, *Spear of Destiny: Live at The Hacienda* and *Special Beat: Enjoy Yourself*. There is also a listing of the current full slate of Cherry Red Films releases.

FINAL WORDS

After watching *Big Audio Dynamite Live: E=MC2*, I had only one disappointment: that I couldn't be there live in September 1992. Fans of the band will be more than happy to add this disc to their collection, especially if, like me, they were unable to attend an actual live performance. Prince fans will enjoy the nod. Music lovers and newcomers will enjoy music that remains fun and fresh.