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DVD Review: Big Audio Dynamite



A review by Joe Milliken

Although Mick Jones is most widely known as the co-leader of seminal punk-rockers The Clash, the singer/songwriter/guitarist carved out his post-Clash niche with Big Audio Dynamite, featuring an innovative blend of reggae-infused rock, hip-hop rhythms and electronic beat box sampling.

This live DVD is taken from a classic 1990 performance at the famed Town and Country Club in London, and features cuts spanning the bands' entire career, although with a seemingly short set list of only eight tracks.

The show is chock full of rousing dance-floor anthems, Clash-like power chord strumming, some potent hi tech sampling and even a surprising Prince cover song to round out the show.

However one glaring glitch does lie in the title itself, for the lineup you see in this show is actually that of the second incarnation of the band, called B.A.D. II.

The set list is interesting yet a bit quizzical in the fact that at the time of this show, Jones was promoting the release *The Globe*, yet there are only three tracks from that album represented here.

There are also three songs from their debut *This Is Big Audio Dynamite*, one track from the underrated *Tighten Up Vol. 88*, plus the aforementioned infamous Prince track "1999".

Considering at the time of the performance, this incarnation of the band couldn't have been together for more than a year or so, yet the music is extremely tight as the band rocks and grooves through the set in which the production values truly shine.

Although the electronic sampling is an intricate part of the show it is well-placed and not overwhelming, and provided by Don Letts, who also formerly worked with Jones in The Clash. Letts also produced the Clash documentary *Westway To The World*.

There is also plenty of that patented Jones' guitar strumming in tracks such as the opening "Medicine Show", "Other 99", "The

Globe" and "Rush".

The only other flaw noticed was that the DVD credits listed "interview segments" that are nowhere to be found. Overall however, this is a very energetic performance and a must for fans, especially when you consider that there just isn't much B.A.D. footage out there to be found.