



Blood Sweat & Tears

Spinning Wheel

Cherry Red Films

Blood Sweat & Tears reform for the last time to show that they've still got what it takes to swing



'Blood Sweat & Tears: Spinning Wheel' is a charming live performance DVD released by Cherry Red Films. The footage itself is twenty seven years old, and it is evident that every care possible has been taken when transferring the original video to DVD, the effort taken to restore and clean up the audio and film is commendable. Originally filmed for video at a 1980 live concert at the Civic Theatre in Halifax, England, on a tour for their final studio album 'Nuclear Blues', 'Blood Sweat & Tears: Spinning Wheel' captures the moment in time perfectly, all the while remaining timeless in its appeal.

For those who are unfamiliar with the band, this DVD is a neat introduction, showcasing some of Blood Sweat & Tears most loved classics, including the title track 'Spinning Wheel' and 'You Make Me So Very Happy'.

If you appreciate Jazz, Blues and Rock then you will undoubtedly fall in love with Blood Sweat & Tears, this DVD will appeal greatly to old time fans as well as those who are just discovering them.

Front man David Clayton-Thomas explores his impressive vocal range almost effortlessly, he glides from Jazz to Blues to Rock, embracing every style with ease.

The band members themselves are truly devoted to their art, playing their instruments in such a precise and exquisite way, they are a strong back bone and make Blood Sweat & Tears what it deserves to be.

Each musician expresses passion whilst performing as a band, and during their solos. A very notable solo performance comes from bassist David Piltch, who clearly enjoys his time holding court, making his bass guitar come alive as his facial expressions sing with the music, and although the sound quality isn't overly crisp and clear, which is to be expected, one can still appreciate how awesome the live sound is.

The concert is relaxed, fun, and fully entertaining. Blood Sweat & Tears take their audience on a journey through their personal progression, starting with their roots in the seventies, and then gracefully embark to transition into their new works. This is almost a remarkable difference in style, bringing in classical guitars and experimenting with a delightful acoustic sound. They range from quirky, fun, and raw to more cool, calm, collected, and sleek sounds.

'Blood Sweat & Tears: Spinning Wheel' has a running time of just under one hour, making it a nice easy-listening length, even if one doesn't wish to sit and watch it.

Unfortunately there are a few disappointments to the DVD, if you're the kind of person who enjoys the benefits of having extras on a DVD, you're going to be disheartened to learn that for 'Blood Sweat & Tears: Spinning Wheel' there are none. Which is slightly surprising considering the bands colourful history, and many line up changes.

This isn't to say that the DVD is made to be too plain, just that the little added spice extras offer would have given it more weight, especially for the hardcore fans.

The DVD reaches its conclusion at a frustrating end, Blood Sweat & Tears are part way through performing their own enjoyable version of Jimi Hendrix 'Manic Depression' when filming cuts out, and the menu screen reappears without having rolled any credits.

This is a slight let down, especially for those who look forward to the rock elements of Blood Sweat & Tears, however the lovely footage that runs before 'Manic Depression' makes 'Blood Sweat & Tears: Spinning Wheel' a treasure that every fans DVD collection should hold.

www.cherryred.co.uk

Rating 3 ½ out of 5

For Fans Of: James Brown, Billy Holiday, and B.B King

By **Danni Rose**

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