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Renaissance: Song Of Scheherazade Live (DVD)

Longtime fans of prog/art rock band Renaissance have been chomping at the bit for ages to get some of their archival live footage released on DVD. Well, finally something has come to fruition in the form of *Song Of Scheherazade "Live"* , a brand new DVD containing 2 shows from the classic era, one shot at the Capitol Theater in Passaic, NJ in 1976, and the other from 1979 at the Asbury Park Convention Center, also in New Jersey. Oddly enough, both shows were filmed in black and white, and the picture quality as one would imagine is not the greatest, but the sound and the performances here on both sets are stellar.

Featuring the classic line-up of Annie Haslam on vocals, John Tout on keyboards, Michael Dunford on guitar, Jon Camp on bass, and Terry Sullivan on drums, the band runs through numerous selections from their back catalog at both shows, and on the 1979 concert they play a few numbers from their then brand new release *Azure d'Or* . The Capitol Theater set is really amazing to watch, Annie singing with all her heart (and looking quite spectacular I might add!) while Tout's gorgeous piano and synth stylings lay down plenty of magical tapestries on classics such as "Running Hard", "Ocean Gypsy", "Mother Russia", "Prologue" (which is absolutely spectacular here), and of course the epic "Song Of Scheherazade". He doesn't get talked about enough, but the most important key to this band was the incredible bass skills of Camp, whose silky smooth, acrobatic Rickenbacker lines gave the band a unique voice, especially considering there was no lead guitar, given that Dunford mostly played acoustic accompaniment. Camp's virtuoso performance offers up plenty of lead bass lines and complex patterns, and it's a shame that he doesn't get mentioned more when the talk of 70's bass legends like Chris Squire, Geddy Lee, John Wetton, Greg Lake, and Jack Bruce comes up.

Over to the 1979 show, the band are starting to dive into their more commercial period, though strong selections like "Northern Lights", "Jekyll and Hyde", "A Song For All Seasons", "The Flood at Lyons", and the lovely "Forever Changing" fit right in alongside staples such as "Vultures Fly High" and the mighty "Mother Russia". You can see how the band were moving towards a more modern sound, with Tout employing more synthesizers and Dunford playing more electric guitar this time around. Annie Haslam's voice is once again spectacular throughout, as she not only uses it to sing the lyrics, but also as an instrument to vocalize melodies and harmonies.

Fantastic stuff, and once you get past the fact that these shows are in black & white, you'll realize what a treasure chest of goodies this really is. Hopefully, more Renaissance material will reveal itself from the vaults at some point.

Track Listing

Capital Theater 1976

Running Hard

Ocean Gypsy

Carpet of the Sun

Mother Russia

Prologue

Song Of Scheherazade:

Sultan

The Young Prince and Princess

The Festival

Convention Hall 1979

Can You Understand-Intro

Vultures Fly High

Jekyll and Hyde

Northern Lights

Forever Changing

Secret Mission

Mother Russia

A Song For All Seasons

Flood at Lyons

Added: June 26th 2009

Reviewer: [Pete Pardo](#)

Score: ★★★★★

Related Link: [band Website](#)

Hits: 77

Language: english