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Abdullah Ibrahim - A Brother With Perfect Timing

2005 - Music Video Distributors

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Synopsis:

A superb film on the life and music of one of South Africa's finest musicians, Abdullah Ibrahim. Following Ibrahim's vivid stories, the film moves between New York and Cape Town, mixing documentary with dramatized episodes. Its form mirrors the non linear, narrative circular of Ibrahim's musical composition, juxtaposing qualities that seem contradictory but evoke the complexity and diversity of his sources. Conceived in close collaboration with Ibrahim, it throbs with anticipation and skillfully describes provocative cultural history of the Cape, through the eyes of the country's finest musician.

A fascinating glimpse into the life of a musician I had never previously heard of, but who had obviously accomplished some pretty amazing things. The film does take an interesting approach to the subject matter, floating around rather than focusing in as a linear story, one minute looking at the life of Mr. Ibrahim, the next glimpsing back into the history of Cape Town, South Africa.

Interesting stuff - somewhat dated (mid-80s), but still relevant and captivating nonetheless.

Video: How's it look?

Fullscreen video transfer is undoubtedly the best that the source material would allow - shot in the mid 80s, undoubtedly on video, this has a pretty rough, grainy look, but somehow it fits, given the dramatic subject matter.

Audio: How's it sound?

The Dolby 5.1 mix for this DVD is impressive - while the dialogue and talkie scenes have a bit of background noise to them (undoubtedly due to poor original recording), but the musical numbers sound lush and vibrant - schweet sounding schtuff.

Extras: What all's on the DVD?

- nada

Closing Thoughts

Interesting glimpse into the life of an accomplished musician + no extras = fine entertainment for music fans



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