



Discoveries
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The Residents

Demons Dance Alone DVD
Music Video Distributors

reviewed by Alex Green

For the past thirty years The Residents have been playing their own unique brand of idiosyncratic music all the while keeping their identities a secret. The band's new DVD *Demons Dance Alone* may not illuminate who exactly has been behind the many masks and costumes The Residents employ to retain their anonymity, but it does, however, reinforce the fact that The Residents are one of the most imaginative, original and inimitable presences in modern music.

The Residents are not a typical band, and *Demons Dance Alone* is not a typical filmed live performance. With footage captured by a camera that was fastened to a black figure that wandered the stage during the October and November performances of the band's 2002 U.S. tour, *Demons Dance Alone* provides a welcome glimpse of a group that no matter how close you get, their mystery only seems to deepen. But this intimate look at The Residents onstage is a generous snapshot of their complex and dramatic stage presentation, and consists of fifteen songs, including the reflective "Honey Bear," the dark and grinding "Wolverines," and the oddly affecting "Life Would Be Wonderful." Known for their legendary costumes--giant eyeballs, top hats and tuxedos, and newspaper suits--*Demons Dance Alone* finds The Residents dressed in what looks to be post-apocalyptic Egyptian garb, with its singer often carrying a lantern. The band may be up to its old tricks of inventive costuming, but what's new is the addition of a female vocalist, also in disguise--whose interplay augments the theatrical nature of the live performance. Featuring bits of interpretative dance, a demon-like masked trumpet player and a dark and whimsical set list, *Demons Dance Alone* is a strange and satisfying experience. (www.musicvideodistributors.com)