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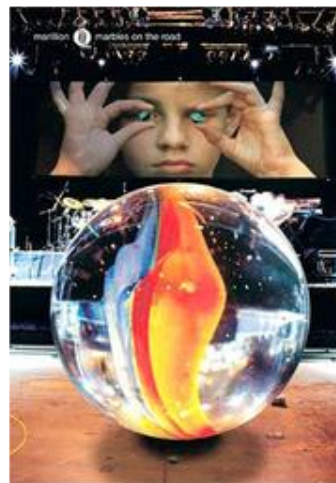
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Marillion – Marbles On The Road (DVD-Video)

Picture: B- Sound: B- Extras: C
 Concert: B

In the 1980s, the Progressive Rock of the 1970s gave way to overly Pop-oriented bands like GTR, Asia, The Firm and other disappointments that got the Classical/Jazz Music laced subgenre relabeled "Prog Rock" since. Marillion is a Rock band that has gone into that direction, but with a spirit more in line with some New Wave sensibilities. In 2004, they issued their album **Marbles On The Road**, followed by this live DVD concert version in which they cover the album and some other favorites.



Using 15 different cameras at the 16 X 9 aspect ratio, I was impressed both by the sincere attempt to do a concept album that worked, empathetic singing, some interesting ideas and trying to do something new with the 16 X 9 frame. The concert runs nearly two hours in all and features:

- 1) *The Invisible Man*
- 2) *Marbles I*
- 3) *You're Gone*
- 4) *Angelina*
- 5) *Marbles II*
- 6) *Don't Hurt Yourself*
- 7) *Fantastic Place*
- 8) *Marbles III*
- 9) *The Damage*
- 10) *Marbles IV*
- 11) *Neverland* (Conclusion of title program)
- 12) *Bridge*
- 13) *Living With The Big Lie*
- 14) *The Party*
- 15) *Between You & Me*
- 16) *Uninvited Guest*
- 17) *Cover My Eyes*

It should be said that they are somewhat ambiguous in what they are saying, though the initial points are valid. When I read they offer life-changing ideas, I get suspicious, as if they are hiding some religious agenda or cult thing, but we can only judge only the concert here and it is one of the most interesting of the new widescreen video concerts we have seen to date. Even if you land up discovering something you might not like about them or think they may be somehow sneaky about where they are coming from, they have pulled off an intelligent, fun, solid concert DVD anyone who likes live shows will want to get their hands on.

The anamorphically enhanced 16 X 9/1.78 X 1 image is stylized with some overdone color on the performers from the stage lighting on purpose, but this does not bleed much and is a nice change of pace from the usually dull 16 X 9 concerts we have seen. Producers have got to do more with these cameras and the 15 here are used well, with the addition of a wide video screen above

MARKET PLACE

>Li'l Abner (1959)
>Bring Me The Head Of
Alfredo Garcia

and behind them. The Dolby Digital 5.1 mix is above the 2.0 Stereo here as it should be, but it is sad this does not have DTS, because this is a very well recorded concert trying to break through. Maybe an SACD would prove just how sonically solid the recording really is. The only extras are so-so Music Videos for tracks 3 & 6, plus an Electronic Press Kit for the album. No matter what the future result, I look forward to listening to more Marillion. The concert is certainly a winner.

- Nicholas Sheffo

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