



DVD: Michael Schenker Group Live In Tokyo 1997

Music Video Distributors

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Is it possible to get too much of a good thing when the subject is favorite musicians captured in concert on DVD? Believe me when I tell you I'm a fan of former UFO guitarist Michael Schenker, but I didn't make it through Michael Schenker Group Live In Tokyo 1997 in one sitting. Long? That's an understatement, and

it's not a bad thing at all, because you don't HAVE to make it through in one sitting, when you think about it. In fact, it was pretty nice to have almost as much to watch in the second sitting. Then I sat down on yet another night and discovered there was another concert in the bonus features, this one from 2000. Another CONCERT, albeit in much lower visual and sound quality in keeping with its bootleg status. Still, another concert, as well as an interview and videos. If you hate it when they skimp on the bonus features, this will make up for the last ten or twelve injustices you suffered. The main event is a 1997 concert commemorating Schenker's 25th year on the international scene. Filmed in glorious videotape format, it makes up in guitar shredding excitement what it lacks in stunning cinematic visuals.

Possessing a sound instantly recognizable to anyone who has ever even been a casual fan of MSG or UFO, Schenker lets it loose on a total of 40 songs (30 in the main concert, 10 in the bonus concert. The set list is a good mix of songs from MSG, UFO and even The Scorpions (another of his bands, at one time), and the 1997 lineup, featuring vocalist David Van Landin, was a particularly good one for UFO fans to get into. Van Landin can do a lot of things with his voice, but at the heart of it he sounds quite similar to UFO vocalist Phil Mogg. Plenty here to please the fans. And it's a good show. Hell, it's two or three good shows, depending on your attention span.

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