

Combustible Celluloid

New movie reviews, DVD reviews, interviews, and all things film.



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The English Beat: In Concert at the Royal Festival Hall (2005)

Rating: 3 Stars (out of 4)

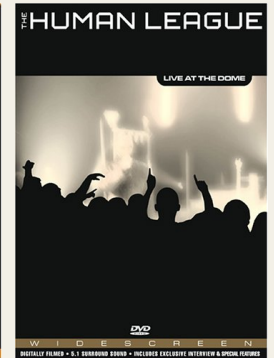


We Got the Beat

By Jeffrey M. Anderson

[Buy *The English Beat: In Concert at the Royal Festival Hall* on DVD.](#)

These new DVDs from Music Video Distributors document two 1980s dance bands gathering two decades later for new concerts, and the discs do a good job demonstrating why certain concerts work and others don't. The Human League, best known for their hits "Don't You Want Me" and "Fascination," can't quite ignite a spark during their staid performance. Part of the trouble is that they save their hits for the second half of the show, when the energy has begun to flag. On the other hand, The English Beat scatter their best known songs ("Hands Off She's Mine," "Tears of a Clown," "Twist and Crawl," "Mirror in the Bathroom," "Save It for Later," etc.) throughout, and keep the energy pumping over a longer stretch of time. It helps that the latter band has more in the way of old-fashioned musicianship; people actually play instruments on stage, while most of the Human League do nothing more than sing or dance in place. Oddly, I was more of a Human League fan during the 1980s, but I'm thinking of switching camps. Both new DVDs feature crisp, deep sound, a clean picture and various extras (interviews, galleries, biographies, etc.).



Starring: Ranking Roger, Dave Wakeling, Saxa, Everett Morton, Dave Blockhead, Neil Deathridge, Andy Pearson, Ranking Junior

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- [Just Making Movies](#), by Ronald L. Davis
- [Guide to Essential Movies](#), by Joe Leydon
- [Cecil B. DeMille's Hollywood](#), by Robert S. Birchard
- [Profoundly Disturbing](#), by

Directed by: Dave Meehan
MPAA Rating: Unrated
Running Time: 86 minutes
Date: September 23, 2005

Joe Bob Briggs

- [A Third Face](#), by Samuel

Fuller

- [Dark Lover](#), by Emily

Leider

- [Agee on Film](#), by James

Agee

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Louise Brooks

- [Negative Space](#), by

Manny Farber

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More of Jeffrey's reviews are available at: [Rotten Tomatoes](#), [The San Francisco Examiner](#) and [All Movie Portal](#).

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