



"Hardly a visit goes by when I don't find something cool/unusual/rare/fascinating in the racks of my neighbourhood Beat Goes On locations. What were some of those people thinking when they traded this stuff in? Their loss is the music geek's gain."

Alan Cross Program Director of 102.1 The Edge & Host of The Ongoing History of New Music



THE TRI-CITIES' WEEKLY ALTERNATIVE- ONLINE EDITION

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- [NEWS](#)
- [MUSIC](#)
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- [CLASSIFIEDS](#)
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- [ADVERTISE](#)

The English Beat

By Brent Hagerman

The English Beat

In Concert at The Royal Festival Hall (Secret Films/MVD)
 Despite the lack of info on the packaging (designed, probably, to disguise the fact that this is a reunion concert in Feb. 2003, not original footage of the band) there's a lot of good things about this dvd. If you're getting visions of aging has-beens playing droll versions of hits of yesteryear you'll be amazed — four original members Dave Wakling, Rankin' Roger (who left his lucrative inline skate instruction business to join the crew), drummer Everett Morley and Saxa join latecomer Dave Blockhead and two newbies and put on a show that they've obviously been waiting 20 years to do. This version of the band is far better than what Wakling has been dragging around North America the last couple of years and it's too bad that after this was filmed he opted not to join the others in their newfound Beatness. The songs you'd expect are here: "Rankin' Full Stop," "Twist and Crawl," "Stand Down Margaret (changed to "Stand Down Georgie / Stand Down Tony") et al, and a few you wouldn't — like Saxa's solo performance of "Stranger on the Shore" and Rankin' Junior (yup, Mr. Roger's begotten fruit) showing up to toast a nervous verse in "Mirror in the Bathroom."

The filming and sound is top notch with plenty of onstage cameras, a multitude of angles and close-ups and 5.1 if you have the capability. Extras include a boring gallery of concert stills, a biography that you have to read onscreen despite the annoyingly tiny font size and an interview with Rankin', Blockhead and Morton. The interview is candid as Rankin' reveals the reasons behind the Beat's split and his remorse over the part he played in it. Morton gives an insider's look at the beginnings of what was originally a punk outfit, and how he changed it to a reggae-influenced band because he couldn't drum that fast.



Page 1/...Page 2



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