

The Residents

Wormwood DVD - Music Video Distributors 2005



The Residents of the United States of America (R.U.S.A.) herein perform "Curious Stories From The Bible" in a live concert setting for 105 minutes of your day. These guys are a visual nightmare of bizzarrities, with the narrator wearing a giant black skull on his head, the lead singers (one male, one female) wearing icky pointy bird beak masks, and the rest of the band dressed up in those gorgeous top-hatted eyeballs. Blacklit colors create a beautiful stage ambience, and constant weirdo props (a big pointy finger, huge disturbing painted heads, etc) and tricks-of-the-eye keep the mood interesting; my favorite gag involves the lead singer holding a small carved wooden and painted flat body over his black clothing so that it looks like he's a little tiny man dancing in the air above the stage.

The only problem is that, as interesting a concept as **Wormwood** is (and it's helped along by the black skull narrator sharing brief summaries of the Bible Tales and where they can be found in the Good Book), much of the music in this work is just not terribly pleasant to listen to. A few of the tracks stand out as musically or lyrically memorable ("David's Dick," "God's Magic Finger," "Burn Baby Burn"), but many of the compositions are so purposefully ugly, compounded by the lead singer using a grotesquely ragged shout for much of the show, that sitting through 105 minutes of it can get a bit tiresome. It's still definitely worth watching though! Not too many bands put as much care into the visual aspect of their art as The Residents do.
