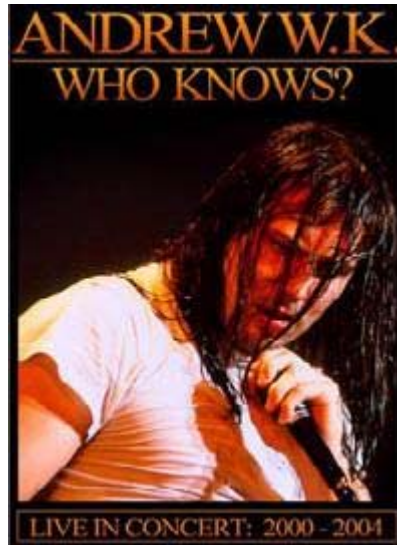
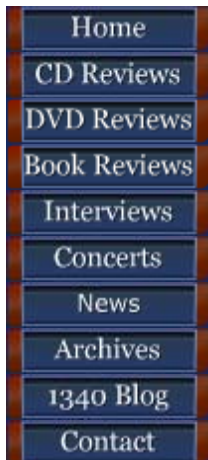




The Free Online Entertainment Magazine



Andrew W.K.

Who Knows? Live 2000 - 2004

MVD Video

With song titles like Long Live the Party, It's Time to Party, and Party Hard, Andrew W.K. might strike you as a guy who writes songs that make great soundtracks for beer commercials. Stop and listen to the songs, drenched in synth, assaulting you with chainsaw guitars and bombastic drum sounds straight from metal records of the 80s, and you'd have to agree. This is just fun music. So fun that you might imagine the live experience is one not to be forgotten. With the release of the DVD Andrew W.K. – Who Knows? Live 2000-2004, now is your chance to find out.

In my book, there are two types of live performers: those that strive to be technically superb and those that focus on an energetic performance. Of course, the best live experience combines both of these elements, and the worst has none of them. Andrew W.K. is not the best live performer, nor is he the worst. His performances definitely lean towards the energy side of the spectrum, but there is a lot to be desired. Each of the 16 songs on this DVD feature a countless number of men with long hair headbanging while Andrew W.K. alters between pounding on his keyboard and making all sorts of odd convulsive movements. He changes things up now and then by performing in a wheelchair (No, I'm not making that up).

In between performances are what I can only describe as something you might expect if a film student tried to make an art-horror film. Andrew W.K. often narrates these sections of the DVD and most of the time he makes no sense. When he does, it is a lot of self-important mumbo jumbo. Phrases such as, "We do what we do because it's what we're doing," are the norm here.

The main feature of the DVD (there is also a lot of bonus footage) is 75 minutes of concert footage interspersed with the above-mentioned abstract clips. About halfway through, things start to become very repetitive. Although this is a collection of several performances from several different shows, Andrew W.K. is always wearing the same white sweat-soaked T-shirt and acid-washed jeans. He is always doing the same things on stage and always playing songs that sound the same. The audio does not adequately showcase the power and energy of the songs and, while there are occasional on-stage camera angles, most of the time you're stuck watching from the audience.

Reviewed by: **David Baker**

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