



Exodus – A Ray of Sunshine / 2006 MVD / 135 Minutes / <http://www.mvdb2b.com/>

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There are not enough in the way of different accent marks to properly give to the titles of songs on “A Ray of Sunshine”. This is due to the fact that this Exodus is not the band that created metal music through all of the eighties and nineties, but is a Polish progressive rock act. Think of a band that mixes together Blue Oyster Cult, Dio, and Rush and an individual will have an idea of what Exodus sounds like. The first five tracks on this disc are from over twenty-five years ago, and are from the “Rockin’ Jamboree ‘80” festival. The audio present is strong, but the visuals leave something to be desired. The way in which the visuals are captured are strong, as the shots move between the different members of the band. However, what is lacking is a sharpness; there is a fuzziness present through all of the live footage that makes this DVD not quite as enjoyable as it could be. As has been previously mentioned, the quality of the audio on “A Ray of Sunshine” is fantastic for how old this DVD is.

The experimentative nature of Exodus is shown in full blush; tracks do not need to be short in the least, as the band has more than enough material to continue on with their track. For this progressive rock band, there is little in the way of vocals; with the richness that tracks like “Ten najjpiekniejszy dzien” bring to the table, the presence of the vocals would actually decrease the enjoyment that individuals can draw from the CD. When there are vocals, such as in the track “Stary Noe”, they are not trying to tell a story as much as they act as another instrument. This higher-ranged instrument works perfectly in a track that is dominated by the bass lines of Exodus; the band has methods to create a full sound regardless of what instruments that they have available. What might have been nice but one cannot really expect from MVD would be an English translation of the vocals.

While the vocals on tracks like “Zloty promien slonca” are very catchy, there is little one can do outside of learning Polish to understand what is being sung about. The roughness that the band can show in tracks like “Zloty promien slonca” really distinguishes Exodus from the rest of the progressive bands of the period; instead of just being Pink Floyd, they are an act that acts as a bridge between the progressive rock of the seventies and the harder rock of newer periods. Individuals have probably never heard of this Exodus, but this does not mean that they should miss out on this act. For a band that actually knows how to commit compelling progressive rock to an album, Exodus might just be the one band that individuals search out. “A Ray of Sunshine” is a perfect introduction to the band and affords listeners more of a context than a piece of vinyl would normally do.

Top Track: Zloty promien slonica

Rating: 6.4/10

-James McQuiston