

Progressive Land

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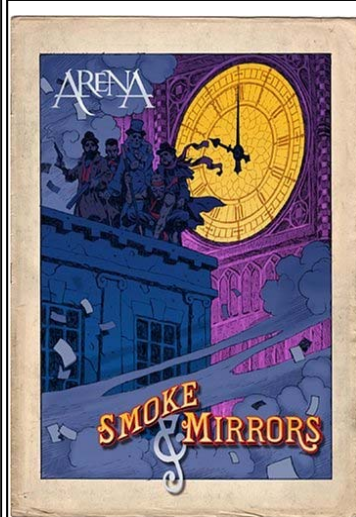
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Arena - Smoke & Mirrors- DVD/CD

Home Page- <http://www.verglas.com/ArenaWorld/arenaworld.html>

Label - **MetalMind**



Reviewed by:	Jez Parry
Genre:	Prog Rock
Country:	England
Language:	English
Length:	NA
Release Date:	April 25, 2006
Label:	MetalMind

Band Members:	Clive Nolan / keyboards	Mick Pointer / drums
	Rob Sowden / vocals	John Mitchell / guitars
	Ian Salmon / bass	
Track Listing:	1.)-Bedlam Fayre	11.)-Medusa
	2.)- A Crack in the Ice	12.)- The Shattered Room
	3.)- Midas Vision	13.)-Chosen
	4.)-Elea	14.)-Skin Game
	5.)- The Hanging Tree	15.)-Witch Hunt
	6.)-A State of Grace	16.)-Enemy Without

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- [Tangent-The Que B.](#)
- [Jadis-Ph Jason B.](#)
- ["3"- Wal](#)
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Page--PRPM	7.)-Don't Forget to Breathe	17.)-Solomon	Shadow Room-V
Prog-Resiste	8.)- Purgatory Road	18.)-Friday's Dream	Rush-(R-
Giant Progweed	9.)- Smoke & Mirrors	19.)-Cry VII	Izz-My R
Garden Shed	10.)- Waiting for the Floods		Soft Mac Floating Live
Hairless Heart	Bonus video: Reunion Concert - Fan Footage De Boerderij, Zoetermeer, Holland		Yes-Tsor
Sonic Cathedral			Steve Wa Shadown
Arlequins	1.)-A Crack in the Ice	4.)-A State of Grace	Neal Mo
Prog Rock Ring	2.)- Elea	5.)-Medusa	James La Elements Persuasi
Sea Of Tranquility	3.)-The Hanging Tree	6.)-Crying for Help VII	Canvas S Penumb
Rock Report			RPWL-V Through Jason's F
AOR Dream Zone	CD (available only in MMP DVD 0064 digipack edition!)		It Bites-I London
ProgNaut	1.)-Bedlam Fayre	7.)-(Don't Forget to Breathe	Spock's I Gluttons Punishm
ProgressiveEars	2.)-A Crack in the Ice	8.)-Smoke & Mirrors	Arena-Pt Ghost
GhostLand	3.)-Midas Vision	9.)-Purgatory Road	Magenta Pallas-Ri
Ladies Of Metal	4.)-Elea	10.)-Waiting for the Flood	Kaipa-Mindrev
ZNR Records	5.)-The Hanging Tree	11.)-Medusa	Dream Th Budokan-I
Progressor	6.)- A State of Grace		David Gi An Islan Review
Gnosis			RPWL-V Through ELP-Bey Beginn
Other Links	Arena live on stage in Poland. From the 'Pepper's Ghost Tour'	Show recorded in September 2005 at Wyspianski Theatre in Katowice!	Steve Ho Spectrun
Bathtub of Adventures	Arena's biography	Interview with Clive Nolan and Mick Pointer	Fish-Bou Perceptic
Dragon's Links	Discography	Photo gallery	
Unger's Prog World	Weblinks	Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround Sound	
German Web Ring	available in limited DIGIPACK edition, with bonus audio CD with the highlights of the show		
Prog.Web	Animated menu		
Axiom Of Choice			
New Horizons			
G.E.P.R.			
Colossus	The	Arena remain one of the UK's premier Progressive	

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Review

rock outfits and with a string of excellent albums, EP.s and Dvd's to their name, quality has always been a word at the forefront of all their releases. 'Smoke And Mirrors' is no exception to that rule and turns out to be a very high quality DVD release that they can be rightly proud of. This is the second Arena DVD, (Caught In The Act being the previous one from 2003) and was once again recorded in Poland in September of 2005 whilst the band was touring their latest 'Peppers Ghost' studio album.***

Being an independent release, the quality on show is excellent, and would definately give the bigger budget labels a run for their money. The whole show is very professionally shot, with a varied mix of camera angles that are always in the right place to capture all the on stage action. The sound is also top notch, with stereo or 5.1 surround sound mixes to choose from. I can say pretty definately that the sound hasn't been 'messed' about within the studio very much, apart from a little mixing maybe!!! as this is pretty much how they sounded at the UK show of the same tour (and on previous tours) I witnessed, so what you hear IS what they are genuinely like live, which can't be said of some other live DVD'S/ CD's I have heard???***

The set list of the show is spread between all the bands albums, although half are taken from their 2 strongest releases, namely four tracks from the latest 'Pepper's Ghost' album and six from the masterful 'The Visitor' from 1998. The rest of the set is spread pretty evenly from the other four studio albums making it a pretty comprehensive round up of the bands best moments.***

The bonuses on the DVD are definately worthwhile as well, as they feature six songs from the 'Reunion' concert from last year in Holland, which feature Bass player extrordinaire John Jowitt and Paul Wrightson, both from earlier Arena line ups. Picture and sound quality are not as good on these as the main concert footage, although this is 'Fan Foortage' so is excusable. Good to have as extras though!!! Also included in the bonuses is an interview with Clive Nolan and Mick Pointer on all things 'Arena' as well as a Biography, Discography, Photo Gallery etc etc. The big bonus here though is the extra 12 track Gold Audio disc that is included in the first pressing. You

[Blackmo Castle & Dvd](#)
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will have to be quick though, as I hear that this double package is strictly a 'Limited Edition' one.***

For existing Arena fans, this DVD is going to be a must have release (especially the limited edition version), For people who are new to the name 'Arena' then this is also a highly recommended place to start, as it covers a good selection of All the bands material from all the albums, as well as providing a good visual document of the band in the live setting.

Grade: A

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