



Meat Beat Manifesto Travelogue Live 05

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A visually intriguing package of {Meat Beat Manifesto} with images culled from a rehearsal in San Francisco, on the road in North America and Canada, at a sound check on June 16th in Kansas City as well as a sound check in Chicago six days later, and then the full concert live at that Chicago venue on June 22, 2005. {Jack Dangers} builds his audio as {Greg Hawkes} of {The Cars} and videographer {Jeff Hudson} did back in the 90s, the concert combining imagery with the electronica/techno/ backbeat and sound weavings. Picture {Monsieur Leroc} adding some punch to {The Chemical Brothers} without the soul music.

Or perhaps it is {Kraftwerk} hypnotics with {Ringo Starr}-style beats courtesy of {Lynn Farmer}'s V.Drums. It's fun stuff, but like {Chrome & Helios Creed} on their {Dual Forces} DVD the quartet here can sometimes deliver too much of a good thing and it can all descend into monotony.

Where the rap and performance of a {Blackalicious} has the potential to evolve, at a certain point the explorations of these sons of {Kraftwerk} seem to bang their heads against the glass ceiling when they should be bashing through it, though {"Radio Babylon"} is nicely eerie. Don't expect {The Beatles} when {"Helter Skelter"} kicks in and it is {Elsa Lanchester}'s face and scream from {The Bride Of Frankenstein} that will greet you on {"She's Unreal"}. When it comes to experimenting a group like {Home And Garden} seems to have the knack for it and {Meat Beat Manifesto} would be wise to combine forces with musicians from another world, as {Sutherland Brothers & Quiver} once did with their respective genres decades before this. {Travelogue Live 05} is a fun jaunt and might spice up a party for twenty minutes or so, but then it's time to slap on {Andy Mackay}'s {In Search Of Eddie Riff} again.

- Joe Viglione