

Moogfest 2006 Live (DVD)

Various Artists

Music Video Distributors, 2007

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If you are expecting an electrifying live DVD with plenty of action capturing not just the artists' performances but also their enthusiasm in ways other than just the music playing, this is absolutely not the DVD for you.

The Moogfest concert -- celebrated annually to honor the groundbreaking achievements of maverick inventor Robert Moog and his namesake synthesizer -- of 2006 involves unglamorous aging men sitting behind the keyboard playing music as if they are writing term papers. An ordinary music enthusiast will find this DVD utterly boring and, overcome by ineludible torpor, will be tempted to switch off the movie within the first half hour.

No doubt this cohort of aging men in the concert include some of the greatest keyboardists alive -- Jordan Rudess (Dream Theater), Bernie Worrell (P-Funk) with DJ Logic, Roger O'Donnell (The Cure), The Mahahavishnu Project, Jan Hammer and Keith Emerson (ELP) -- but unless you are a jazz cognoscenti of a certain type and the aforementioned artists really mean something to you, this concert will mean nothing, even for someone who is into keyboard-based music but not necessarily into these specific artists.

The capturing of the show is as raw as it can get. The camera angles are limited and the sound is too flat to make it an interesting live DVD. This is great for a purist, because the show is captured in its crudeness and presented without a whit of fandangle. Even with so many musical geniuses featured on this show, there are little extras; only about a minute of so of interviews of each artist before they go on stage.

There is no denying the fact that the musicians contributing to this concert give inspiring performances, and for a fan this is an absolute treat, but strictly for a fan. For the sound of the moog is anything but one of magnetism for the unfamiliar, and even though the mastery of the musicians is awe-inspiring, the performances aren't.

Except for Jordan Rudess (who plays the set of synths like a rocker seducing the electric guitar on stage) and Keith Emerson (for the impressive Godzilla-sized synth he manipulates), the others are like erudite college professors with PhDs. They are geniuses, but are not captivating performers on stage. And the production of the DVD makes sure that this fact comes out loud and clear in this concert-movie.

Rating: [B](#)

User Rating: Not Yet Rated

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