

**Einsturzende Neubauten –
Palast Der Republik
(MVD Visual)**



In 2004, pioneering German percussive avante group Einsturzende Neubauten performed an inspired set within (and indeed ON) the now-defunct Parliament building in former East Germany. From the orchestral ambience of "Armenia" to the dynamic din of the soulfully powerful "Perpetuum Mobile," from the sedate, tuneful "Youme & Meyou" to the 100-member choir-driven "Was Ist Ist," Neubauten craft another memorable chapter in their rich 25+ year legacy. Predating the gimmicky novelty acts Stomp and Blue Man Group by well over a decade, Neubauten's use of junk percussion & found instruments was a revelation, and their earlier abrasive sounds (admittedly repellent to many) has given way to a lovely and elegant (though still edgy) sense of melody and harmony. The group's use of space and silence in their compositions opens up new areas of sound-play amidst the cacophony.

Frontman Blixa Bargeld has learned a few tricks from his side-stint in Nick Cave's Bad Seeds and leads the group with a very human soul, a sliver of real emotion in a world of automatic gadgetry and clinical coldness. This DVD captures the group in a potent 5.1 surround mix and multiple cameras for a truly captivating experience. Full recommendation for those who have an ear towards the unusual.

— **Todd Zachritz**