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DVD



INSTUERZENDE NEUBAUTER

PALAST DER REPUBLIK



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MVD Visual

The German masters of the experimental entertain at a former DDR parliament building

When the Berlin Wall came down in 1989 and the DDR (East Germany) tentatively embraced its western brother, Berlin was free to express itself. 18 years on and the city is now one of the most vibrant for electronic music in the whole of Europe. Electronic producers de-camp there in droves (Clark, Exile and Jackson in the last few years) to enjoy the vibrant music scene along with major clubs such as Tresor, the Berghain and Panorama Bar. So it seems fitting that Germany's experimental music sons, Einstuerzende Neubaten should reappear at an old DDR parliament building for a special concert of music that supposedly breaks down barriers. The band actually originated in West Berlin in 1980. They are loosely pegged into electronica or industrial holes, yet the only real way to describe their music is experimental. They build custom instruments, often from scrap materials, to create a wave of curious and intentionally imperfect sound. Pots and pans music has never had it so good.

The gig, staged in November 2004, is fittingly experimental and epic. N.U. Unruh batters away at his bizarre collection of percussion, while Alexander Hacke whips the energy through his guitar. The star of the show is undoubtedly front man Blixa Bargeld (previously of Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds) who sings in German and English and makes various noises with whatever comes close to hand. *Grundstueck* opens with Bargeld hitting the metal stage rails in an oddly melodic pattern. Then on *Armenia* he wails loudly as the music reaches a crescendo. The band is no stranger to a tune, though. *Youme & Meyou* has a Flaming Lips quality to it as the padding electronic rhythm and soft guitar and keys frame Bargeld's hushed vocal. Then *Perpetuum Mobile* hits a big rock sound that gets the crowd giddy. There are also performances of previously unreleased tracks, DVD extras and a two song encore. For fans, this is a very important concert in Einstuerzende Neubaten's history.

http://www.artistdirect.com/nad/store/movies/title/0,,3872917,00.html

By Andrew Laughlin

This release was published on 09 Apr 2007.



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