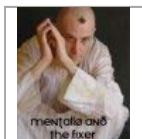


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EINSTÜRZENDE NEUBAUTEN Palast der Republik

For all of us who missed Einstürzende Neubauten's performance in Berlin on 04 November 04, there is "Palast der Republik", the first ever official live concert DVD of Einstürzende Neubauten. The DVD documents the band at a new peak in creativity, improvisation and discipline ...

In 2004, I decided I couldn't go to Berlin and watch Einstürzende Neubauten play at Palast der Republik. I reasoned with myself, that I had seen E.N. in Amsterdam, Brussels and New York City in 2004 and that going to Berlin was unnecessary. Plus it would cost too much money. Not to mention the concert was on Election Day and I didn't have enough time to request an absentee ballot.

Since that day, I haven't really regretted my decision too much. After all I did get to vote, and I did get to see KMFDM and Terrorfakt. Well...now that I have watched the DVD of the 04 November 04 performance, I can tell you, I made a horrible decision. What was I thinking? Miss Einstürzende Neubauteen because I saw them three times.

The show in Berlin was different. They expanded the hex, "Grundstück" from "Perpetuum Mobile" into a five part mind blowing masterpiece. A new focus for the concert. Thankfully, there is the DVD.

On 04 November 04 Einsturzende Neubauten played at the former East German Parliament building.

A place that embodies the new buildings that the Neubauten would like to see collapse.

Then how appropriate the DVD opens with a brimstone and wrath version of "Haus der Lüge" (House of Lies). Which with their performance, the band seem to be willing the implosion of the building. This is followed by "Armenia" one of the most haunting and identifiable Neubauten songs.

"Armenia" dissolves into an improvisational rampe, a segue piece entitled "Weilweilweil".

The piece builds around a loop of the repetitive title, as the song becomes a frenetic jangling skeleton awaiting a full bodied song translation. The playful "Weilweilweil" is in direct opposition to the rigorous perfectionism of the trio of songs from "Perpetuum Mobile".

Evolved from their studio counterparts, and honed by months of touring, the songs are refined and beautiful.

The amount of discipline for the start and stop nature of the songs, displays the perfection that E.N. demands. Even



Rating

Related Links

neubauten.org

Tracklist

1. Haus der Lüge
2. Armenia
3. Weilweilweil
4. Youme & Meyou
5. Perpetuum Mobile
6. Dead Friends (Around The Corner)
7. Grundstück:
8. GS:1
9. GS:2
0. Unseasonable Weather
1. GS:3
2. Vox Populi
3. Was ist ist
4. Ein leichtes leises Säuseln
5. Sabrina
6. Alles



Andrew Chudy's journey through the crowd during "Perpetuum Mobile" with a cluster of olive oil cans, has him back on stage in time to complete the song with the band. Perfection through continual performance.

Which leads us to the body of the performance, "Grundstück". "Grundstück" is a five piece rhythmic track in the tradition of "Ende neu". It is traditionally played kneeling on the stage.



But on "Palast der Republik", E.N. return to their roots and play a site specific song, turning the venue into a musical instrument. This begins the five piece suite, an epic song that sounds like a storm ravishing a village. All members of Neubauten playing metal poles and beams on the balcony start.

The opening percussion hex announces a beautiful haunted reverie. That reverie thins out and becomes a percussion and male chant. Beating and pounding ferociously until the sound becomes a shattering wave of chaos. Sound seems to envelope you from all sources.

Then it breaks into five voices that are joined by a hundred more. Then all the voices become one and they let out a scream, a scream that is the cry of disaster. Afterwards you realize that with "Grundstück" the band have defined themselves, their entire history and their dedicated fans.



"Was ist ist" is aided by the 100 voices of the Neubauten.org supporters. It carries the robust energy built up from "Grundstück" and allows it to crash the village. Things then quiet down after the post storm thunder. The band delivers the sobering and gorgeous "Ein leichtes leises Säuseln" and "Sabrina". But these songs only offer a temporary reprieve until Neubauten play full throttle with the nearly metal "Alles".



Ending the show with the fastest song in modern Neubauten's repertoire just makes me want more. An amazing performance, the only thing that would make it better is if I saw it live.

But that's what a great concert DVD does, makes you regret you were anywhere else but at that show.

If the performance is so great, then why does the DVD receive only a 9? Mostly because the extras seem a bit insubstantial. Two additional performances of previously recorded music, a trailer and commentary. Not enough. The DVD at 82 minutes is a bit on the short side, not to mention the concert captured on this DVD is very grave. The good news is that the commentary is in both German and English (pretty much interchangeably and decided on whim) and filled with their impish charm. More of that inventive playfulness and a few more songs and this would be perfect.



Michael Wozny, 27 Oct 2006

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