



Stryper  
"Greatest Hits-Live In Puerto Rico"  
MVD Visual/Fifty Three  
Five Records/Creative Works Entertainment

Well, we all remember Stryper, right? How could anyone forget these righteous, religious rockers, with their neon bright yellow and black spandex and their bible tossing concert escapades? Stryper ruled the 80s with a rocking religious message, and some pretty cool music to boot. They had the musical chops to show they were not just a silly gimmick, and they knew how to rock. Still do, as a matter of fact. After a lengthy hiatus, Stryper swung back into action a few years ago. This DVD shows them playing a concert in Puerto Rico on 2004, with the original lineup (brothers Robert and Michael Sweet, Oz Fox, and Tim Gaines, respectively). The bumble bee spandex and big hair are gone (although Oz still plays those yellow and black guitars of his), but the talent is still there. The guys have still got it in them, and they rock out like it's 1986! They play many of their classics, including "Soldiers Under Command", "To Hell With The Devil", "Honestly", "Free", "Calling On You", and many others. Mike and Oz are both very good guitarists, very Van Halen influenced, and Mike sings with his harmonious but gutsy voice. His pipes are no worse for wear, even after two decades. Brother Robert plays drums like there's no tomorrow, and Tim Gaines keeps perfect time on bass, just like always. It's almost like they were never gone. It shows that true talent never dies. The crowd is very enthusiastic and the boys really get them worked up. They do their usual thing, praying, preaching, and bible tossing. A rock concert meeting a revival-two opposite worlds, oil and water opposite, colliding. Kinda trippy, but Stryper have a way of making it work (and I've experienced it before myself, having seen the band back in the day. Took me a back a bit!). Just when you thought this kind of thing was gone with the 80s, Stryper have returned. Goes to show you some things never go out of style. Stryper were a unique band in many ways, the biggest one being a religious hair metal band, as well as a religious group who got mainstream success (not to mention the bumblebee stage garb!). Many considered them a novelty but as I said, they had the talent to show otherwise (and still do, as this performance shows). Although their music was comparable to other hair metal masters like Ratt, Scorpions, Kiss, Van Halen, etc, Stryper did manage a sound that was all their own. I can't think of another vocalist with a voice like Mike Sweet. Some live footage from their 80s heyday is included as bonus material. Get a load of Rob's drum kit at this concert-that thing goes for miles! Stryper put on a very good show here and it's clear they still got it in 'em. Religious or not, you'll have a blast rocking out to Stryper!

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