

# YOUR MUSIC MAGAZINE

Reviews and Interviews by Itay K - Jan.-Mar. '06

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**Michael Franti & Spearhead – Live In Sydney '03 (CD/DVD) – MVD**

I've got to say it's taken far too long for Spearhead, one of the hottest live acts out there, to release a DVD. Spearhead's fame, powered by former Heroes of Hiphopricy vocalist Michael Franti's politically charged lyrics and backed by a few world-class musicians, has grown into a political powerhouse by educating the masses through their uplifting music. Unfortunately, the Spearhead in this performance is close, but not quite the Spearhead of today. Apart from Franti's disturbingly flat vocals on the opening track "What I Be," the DVD is a pretty good representative of their energetic live show, but nowadays beat-boxer RadioActive's presence on stage is dearly missed. Whereas Michael Franti sang to the people, Radio embodied them, controlling the crowd with a lift of the hand. Ever since his departure from the group I feel that the youthfulness apparent throughout this live performance left with him. I can't hate though, because he's doing his thing as a solo artist...making the music that he wants to make. Who knows, maybe Radio won't just be an unexpected live cameo in Spearhead's future.

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