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## **BLACKALICIOUS 4/20 LIVE IN SEATTLE**

(Black Mine/MVD Entertainment Group) Rating: **NNNN**

It was depressing to discover that Blackalicious's brilliant last album, *The Craft*, only sold 54,000 copies at a time when even no-talent D-list celeb runoff like Kevin Federline and Brooke Hogan can move that much and more in a week. This DVD of their April 20, 2006, Seattle show demonstrates that Blackalicious, one of the tightest groups in hip-hop, deliver a live experience to match. A big part of it is Gift of Gab's impressive flow and breath control, for instance as he breezes through a lyrical torrent of scientific terms on *Chemical Calisthenics*, over a variety of high-speed tempos and time signatures. Blackalicious also freshen up *Deception* with an R&B-icized rendering. Lateef the Truthspeaker shines on *Lady Don't Tekno*, as does Pigeon John on the stomping *Side To Side*. Informative talking-head interview clips with Gab and Chief Xcel interspersed throughout 4/20 fill out the Blackalicious backstory.

- Jason Richards