



Shared Darkness
A Communal Life in Film and DVD, Examined



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The Other Side of Rick Wakeman



This entry was posted on 9/3/2007 12:25 AM and is filed under [DVD Reviews](#).

I don't know about the wide-front, quasi-maternity pants, fey stance and possible bolo tie that the mirrored version of Rick Wakeman sports on this DVD's cover, but **the actual material herein certainly features the legendary keyboard wizard and Yes man in an interesting new light.**



An up-close and uproarious stand-up performance filmed in front of a live studio audience, *The Other Side of Rick Wakeman* showcases a lifetime of hilarious anecdotes and escapades from the grumpy composer and raconteur. **Wakeman talks about behind-the-scenes stuff — the equivalent of the cool side of the pillow of his career** — including the first rehearsals with Yes, his multi-marital life, recording session mishaps like accidentally setting a piano on fire, his exposure in a Japanese toilet (surely Larry Craig would like this story...) and more. Wakeman also explains his version of the X-factor, and brings to life the lost chord in the Yes classic "And You and I."

Of course, *The Other Side of Rick Wakeman* isn't merely a chat-fest. Running about 10 or 15 minutes short of two hours, this brand new show also features classic material from Yes, The Strawbs and several of Wakeman's his hit solo albums, as well as a couple cover tunes, all performed on in acoustic fashion on the piano. The track listing herein includes David Bowie's "Life On Mars," "The Henry Suite," "See a Monkey on a Stick/A Glimpse of Heaven," "And You and I," "Gone But Not Forgotten," "Wondrous Stories/The Meeting," "Spur of the Moment/After the Ball," "Birdman of Alcatraz," "Guinevere/Merlin the

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Magician,” Cat Steven’s “Morning Has Broken” and the Beatles’ “Help/Eleanor Rigby.” Still, though the music is perhaps the main course, the more frank stories about working with artists like Bowie, and other good-natured yarns, are what make this title interesting.

Housed in a regular Amray case and presented in 1.78:1 anamorphic widescreen, *The Other Side of Rick Wakeman* comes with a 5.1 surround sound audio track. Case-touted “bonus materials,” as it were, consist of a single bonus track, “Children of Chernobyl.” Some interview material would’ve been nice, but as is, this is enough of a disarming reinvention of its subject for lapsed Yes-heads, prog-rock devotees and middle-aged music fans in general. **B+ (Concert) C+ (Disc)**




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