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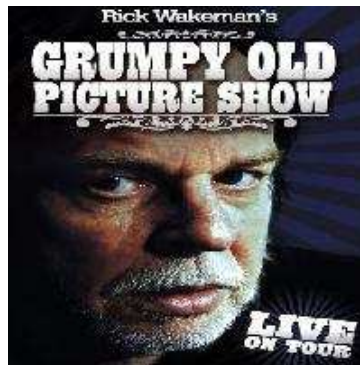
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Editorial



Rick Wakeman

Rick Wakeman's Grumpy Old Picture Show (DVD)

MVD Visual

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Rick Wakeman is best known for his legendary work with Yes, as their longtime and current on-again/off-again keyboardist. His long robes, flashy soloing, spectacular instrumental albums, and larger than life presence, not to mention his physically intimidating keyboard stage set ups, will forever be what fans and cohorts associate with him. But did you know Rick Wakeman has a secret? It's stand up comedy. You heard that right, stand up comedy.

Rick Wakeman's Grumpy Old Picture show is an old-time fanfare, the likes of which are rarely seen these days. And probably never seen by a legendary rock musician. The premise of the show's comedy bits are based on Wakeman's roll on the hit BBC sitcom "Grumpy Old Men." In between goofy collaborative skits, funny stories, and general nonsense, Wakeman performs instrumentals collected from his solo albums, giving the show an (albeit a bit more serious musically) Vaudevillian flare. For those outside of Europe, be aware that the humor here is very dry ala Monty Python and that old Judy Dench sitcom with all the neighbors that PBS is always airing. If you don't like deadpan humor riddled with heavy sarcasm than you'll hate the Grumpy Old Picture show.

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Overall this is pretty funny if you enjoy the aforementioned style of humor. Of course, for a Yes fan like myself, the real treat is seeing Wakeman perform. He performs here with Jemma Wakeman, Gordon Giltrap, Chris Blakely, The English Rock Ensemble, and The English Chamber Choir separately. The highlight of the performances is comes when Jemma Wakeman and The English Chamber Choir join together with Wakeman for a beautiful rendition of "Amazing Grace." Sure this is an odd watch and a bit unnerving at first to see Wakeman in this kind of role but by the end he'll definitely have you laughing.

Bottom Line: Rick Wakeman as you have never seen him before!

Reviewed by: **Mark Fisher**

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