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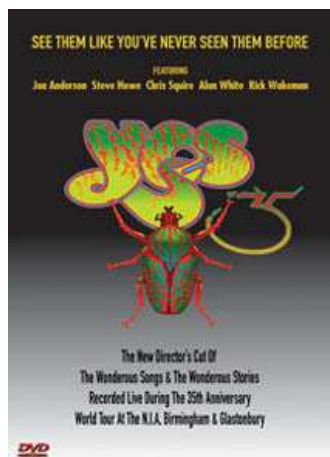


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Yes

The New Director's Cut

Classic Studios/MVD Visual

The New Director's Cut is a more inclusive version of Yes's last DVD release, *The Wondrous Songs & The Wondrous Stories*, which was filmed during the band's 35th Anniversary tour. Coming on the heels of the band's cancelled 40th Anniversary tour, due to vocalist Jon Anderson's sudden illness, this DVD is a welcome respite for longtime fans. The new version contains two DVD's, each with a full length concert performance and fun snippets with the band's classic lineup in between the songs.

For the 35th Anniversary tour, Yes founder's Chris Squire and Jon Anderson did the unthinkable by managing to bring together the band's classic seventies lineup. One that has well-documented bad blood. As the elder statesmen of progressive music, this reformation is massively important on bringing Yes full circle as they near the end of a long and storied career. Vocalist Jon Anderson, bassist Chris Squire, keyboardist Rick Wakeman, guitarist Steve Howe, and drummer Alan White sound great during these performances, perhaps better than they did in their troubled prime.

Realistically, Yes aren't much to look at these days. They look every bit their ages and their stage show is focused squarely on them as players, so there isn't a whole lot of visual stimulation going around. It's sort of like watching a jam band without all the unnecessaries clogging up the songs. I have to wonder if this would have been better as a double album than as a DVD set. Highlights here are generally reserved for the interview snippets as the members basically tell their individual stories of how they came to be in Yes, including how Rick Wakeman joined Yes instead of David Bowie's Spiders From Mars (can you imagine the robed Wakeman in that band?). This alone makes the purchase worthwhile!

For longtime fans this is a must purchase. For new fans looking for something that rings with a trueness not often heard these days then this is an excellent way to introduce yourself to this legendary band. That said, you may want to crank it up and do something else while you are listening. There's not much

to see.

Reviewed by Mark Fisher

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