

KENNEBEC JOURNAL

Concerts on DVD

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Every once in a while, I get DVDs of concerts that are just too good to keep to myself. Such is the case this week.

The fine folks at MVDvisual.com have recently released a bunch of new DVDs that have been entertaining me and mine over here in Sweden: "Cat Steven: Tea For The Tillerman Live," "Yes: The New Director's Cut" and "Marillion: Somewhere In London."

The first disc was recorded in 1971 and features eight songs that reflect his biggest hits of that time (including "Moonshadow," "Wild World," "Where Do The Children Play?," "Father And Son," and "Hard Headed Woman"). These were recorded at the KCET Studios, in LA, in front of a small, but appreciative audience.

It's great to hear this singer-songwriter at the height of his career (also, it's cool to see Alun Davies on guitar and backing vocals, and Larry Steele on bass and congas) in such an intimate setting. There's also included a 5-minute, animated film of "Teaser and the Firecat" that would remind you of "Yellow Submarine" and "The Point." This is decidedly a present to us all; wish it was longer than 35 minutes, though.

The Yes DVD is a double set (clocks in at 256 minutes) that features behind-the-scenes footage and previously unreleased live performances recorded at the N.I.A. Birmingham concert (Disc 1) as well as the Glastonbury Festival (Disc 2). Where the first DVD presented the past, this one shows us probably the best progressive rock band of all time still making musical magic in the new millennium, which is very cool, indeed.

Lastly, a double DVD from my favorite prog/rock band: Marillion. It's called "Somewhere In London" and it was filmed over the last two nights of their "Somewhere Else" album tour at the London Forum in June of 2007. It's neat to be able to see this band performing (I've been a fan since 1983 and they've never performed in Maine, sadly) and to hear them in 5.1 Surround Sound. Disc 2 has four "Somewhere Else" tracks that were mixed to 5.1 which adds even more depth to their already richly textured sound

All told, with a running time of over 223 minutes, this double-disc collection is my pick of the three. Truth be told, each of them is wonderful in its own right.

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