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November 10, 2008...5:07 pm

Yes - The New Director's Cut DVD

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On the same day that the phrase “Yes We Can” became the United States’ official new governing philosophy, *the* premier progressive rock band of all time, Yes, kicked off their *In The Present* 40th Anniversary tour...with at least one big *but*. Due to some respiratory health problems that have plagued long-time Yes singer and spiritual leader, Jon Anderson, the band has replaced him for this tour with Canadian Yes tribute band singer, Benoit David. And the smaller *but* is that keyboardist, Rick Wakeman, who has always been a little flighty anyway, has been replaced by his son, Oliver. The band is rounded out by Yes mainstays Steve Howe (guitar), Chris Squire (bass) and Alan White (drums). Replacing Anderson has been [more than controversial](#) to Yes die-hards (including this writer) and even to [Anderson himself](#), but reports from early *In The Present* gigs are very positive and Benoit David really does nail Anderson’s vocals perfectly (perhaps too perfectly). Even so, many fans still won’t be rushing out to buy Yes concert tickets until Anderson is back in the band. And to bide time until that happens, those skeptics can turn to [Yes - The New Director's Cut](#) from [MVD Visual](#).



Recorded during Yes’ 35th Anniversary tour in 2003, *Yes - The New Director's Cut*, features two full length concert performances from the classic line-up of Yes (Anderson, Wakeman, Howe, Squire, White) from the N.I.A. Birmingham and Glastonbury Festival. This DVD edition sets out to appease fans who were a little less than pleased with the editing, narration, and interview clips (during songs) of the original tour document, *Yesspeak*. And it succeeds greatly. There is a great venue vibe contrast from show to show, as the first DVD is indoors and the second is outdoors, at the Glastonbury. And although the set lists are very similar, fans will

love the two equally amazing takes of the 15-minute plus masterpiece epic, "Awaken", from 1977's *Going For The One* album...the highlight for this Yes fan.

Evident from these performances, these guys are some of the best players in the business and are all still on top of their game. It seems like Yes really shines its brightest (and the fans the most satisfied) when playing the deeper cuts like "Don't Kill The Whale", "South Side of the Sky", "To Be Over" and the aforementioned "Awaken". They are most certainly the highlights of *Yes - The New Director's Cut*. The only times the shows sag a bit are during the Yes super-hits which the band sometimes seem to sleepwalk through. Maybe we'll get to see a 'Yes - Deep Cuts' tour where Yes abandons the usual must-play hits and provides the fans with more of the magical surprise songs when Anderson returns for their 41st year (*you reading this, Yes?*). But until then, dig into the excellent 4 hours-plus footage of [Yes - The New Director's Cut](#) and send out your good vibes to Jon Anderson's health.

4 Comments

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4 Comments



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[kevmoore](#)

[November 10, 2008 at 6:21 pm](#)

This sounds like a great DVD - i'm currently expanding my music dvd collection - this will surely find a place.



•

[Matt](#)

[November 11, 2008 at 5:22 am](#)

So many DVDs, so little time.

This one's on my list, and has been since I heard it was coming out. Gonna have to pick it up.



•

[Dave](#)

[November 11, 2008 at 2:44 pm](#)

Totally off topic, but have your seen [this](#)?

Jack Bruce says "Fuck off, Zeppelin. You're crap!"

Sounds like there's a rumble brewin'!



[kevmoore](#)

[November 11, 2008 at 3:16 pm](#)

Wow, Dave - great link! bloody hell, he's a bit pissed off, isn't he? I'm sorry, but except for a glorious three, perhaps four years when Clapton played with some passion, Jimmy Page outshines him in all departments. Page is far, far more innovative than Clapton. Whilst both started out as blues derivatives, Page took it to another planet. And Bruce should be ashamed of himself slagging off a band containing a fellow producer/arranger/bassist of the calibre of John Paul Jones. Jack, you're a legend -but you're behaving like a silly old bugger.

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






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