

VARIOUS ARTISTS – 'THE DUTCH WOODSTOCK' (Gonzo)



The Dutch Woodstock was a three day festival held at the Kralingse Bos in Rotterdam in June 1970 with 100,000 people in attendance. It's perhaps one of the best remembered festivals ever staged in the world. This single DVD/double CD set features performances from some of rock's most established and revered artists.

The DVD opens with Santana and a version of 'Gumbo' and also features performances from an array of bands, including Canned Heat, Jefferson Airplane, Family, T-Rex, Pink Floyd and Soft Machine. The performances are excellent and it's like a nostalgic trip to an era of music that will never be repeated.

The two CDs feature the likes Country Joe, Dr. John, The Byrds, The Flock as well as the aforementioned names from the DVD.

There's also an array of lesser known artists such as Livin' Blues, Quintessence, It's A Beautiful Day and The Flock. The music is very psychedelic and proggy and there's no question that many of the bands featured are in their element, especially Santana who sounds terrific; this was unquestionably the best era of the band on the back of 'Santana' and 'Abraxas'.

Compilations both live or recorded can often be haphazard affairs but this set actually leaves you wanting more.

Neil Daniels