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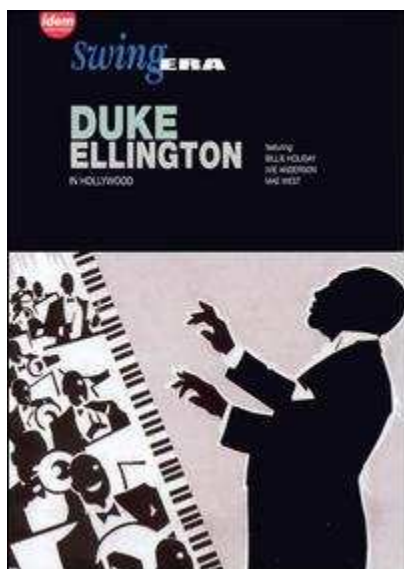
Artist/Group

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In Hollywood: Swing Era

Duke Ellington



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Artist[Duke Ellington](#)**Album**

In Hollywood: Swing Era

Rating

★★★★☆

Review

by Ke

Duke Ellington & His Orchestra are featured in excerpts from eight different short and medium-length films made between 1929 and the late '30s in this DVD compilation, all which were likely pre-recorded in the studio then re-created for the cameras. The mu from *Black & Tan* has a plot, starting with Ellington rehearsing with [Bubber Miley](#) in an apartment, nearly losing his piano to Repo men, though they are dissuaded with a littl booze by the pianist's girlfriend, a dancer (played by Fredi Washington). The band pla several numbers for dancers in a club; when Washington collapses at the end of her fe she is seen dying in her apartment, with a choir, musicians, and Duke, who honors her request by playing the dirge-like "Black & Tan Fantasy." Other films are of varying qua *Symphony in Black* has five separate movements, none of which became a lasting part Ellington's repertoire. Vocalist [Billie Holiday](#) sings "Big City Blues" after being cast asid her former lover in the segment "A Triangle." A documentary on the process of record-making is interesting, though one would rather hear Ellington's music without a voice-over. An RKO film short showcases [Ray Nance](#) on vocals and violin, along with trombonist [Tricky Sam Nanton](#), while [Nanton](#) and alto sax great [Johnny Hodges](#) are fe: in "Don't Get Around Much Anymore." From the film *A Bundles of Blues* comes a rather deliberately paced "'Rockin' in Rhythm" and "Stormy Weather," the latter featuring trombonist [Laurence Brown](#) and vocalist [Ivrie Anderson](#). The only superfluous tracks are ones featuring [Mae West](#) doing her vamp routine in *Bell of the Nineties*, with the Ellin band merely in a supporting role. Considering the vintage of the individual films, the and video are remarkably well preserved. It is a shame that the label failed to take th to identify the musicians in each segment, along with the approximate recording date collection will be of interest to fans of Duke Ellington's early music.

Tracks

Release Date

Aug 3, 2004

Label

Idem

Type

Video

Genre

Jazz

Styles

Orchestral Jazz
 Classic Jazz
 Swing
 Big Band

Moods

Swaggering
 Lively
 Playful
 Refined/
 Mannered
 Stylish
 Sophisticated
 Elegant
 Nocturnal

AMG Album ID

R 699127

Corrections to this Entry?

	Title	Composer
1	Black and Tan Fantasy/The Duke Step Out [DVD]	Ellington, Miley
2	Black Beauty [DVD]	Ellington
3	Cotton Club Stomp [DVD]	Ellington
4	Flaming Youth [DVD]	Ellington
5	Same Train [DVD]	Ellington
6	Black and Tan Fantasy [DVD]	Ellington, Miley
7	Three Little Words/Old Man Blues [DVD]	Ellington, Kalmar, Ruby
8	The Laborers [DVD]	Ellington
9	A Triangle: Dance, Jealousy, Blues [DVD]	Ellington
10	A Hymn of Sorrow [DVD]	Ellington
11	Harlem Rhythm [DVD]	Ellington
12	Daybreak Express [DVD]	Ellington
13	Oh Babe! Maybe Someday [DVD]	Ellington
14	I've Got to Be a Rug Cutter [DVD]	Ellington
15	Jungle Interlude [DVD]	Ellington
16	Mood Indigo/Sophisticated Lady [DVD]	Bigard, Ellington, Mills ...
17	I Don't Mean a Thing [DVD]	Ellington, Mills
18	Don't Get Around Much Anymore	Ellington, Russell
19	Rockin' in Rhythm/Stormy Weather [DVD]	Ellington
20	When a Saint Louis Woman Goes Down to New Orleans [DVD]	West
21	My Old Flame [DVD]	West
22	Memphis Blues [DVD]	West

Releases

Year	Type	Label	Catalog #
2004	DVD	Idem	1029
2004	DVD	Music Video Distributors	1029

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