

Music (CD/DVD) Reviews: Dio, Rolling Stones, The Michael Schenker, Ransom, Logan, Touchstone - Page 2



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As with most such releases, there are extras on this blu-ray including a tour rehearsal of "Turn Your Hips" and "Tumbling Dice" as well as an interview on England's *Old Grey Whistle Test*. For good measure, there is an interview with Mick Jagger filmed this year by way of contrast. Stones releases seem to be good at having something current to pair with the older material.

As with many live gigs of such vintage, there is something missing if you weren't there at the time and are watching this for the first time. Then again, if you are a Stones fan it probably won't matter. Not sure what the attraction is for the rest of us.

The Michael Schenker Group: *The 30th Anniversary Show*

This is just what it says on the box, a live gig in Tokyo to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Michael Schenker vehicle called MSG. Not to be confused of course with the 90s variant, for a couple of albums, McCauley Schenker Group. Schenker has on again, off again frontman Gary Barden along, with talents such as Neil Murray and Simon Philips

joining him as well.

I interviewed Mad Mickey (as the press loves to dub him) and he was a nice, quiet chap who was a pleasure to hang out with. He's always had MSG to fall back on when his other gigs fizzled. Of course, there are tracks from his entire career, including the early days of the Scorpions, UFO, and even a few "solo" tunes.

There is no doubting the quality of this band and Schenker's playing as captured by this quality release. At 175 minutes there is plenty to sink your teeth into including 18 live tracks and extras. The extras include an LA rehearsal, backstage impressions, Michael chatting about himself and the rest of the band interviewed.

An impressive release to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the band. Unpredictable he may be, but when Schenker is on form there are few heavy rock guitarists that can rival him.

CD Reviews

Ransom: *Better Days*

I confess that I have never heard of this lot. They strike me as being the half-way house between Bon Jovi before they "got serious" and "modern" melodic rock. One of the band members toured with Air Supply as their bassist, but don't let that scare you off. There is more an edge to this stuff than the fluff that was the MOR faves. Don Cromwell, mainman behind this lot has written and produced

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