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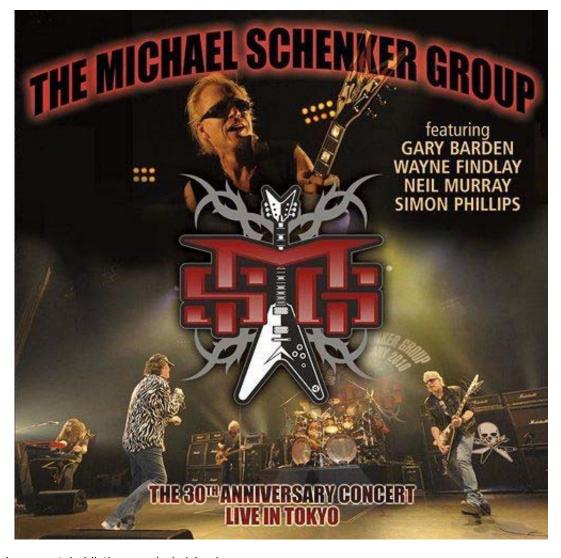
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Michael Schenker Group – The 30th Anniversary Concert: Live In Tokyo (2010) CD & DVD

Posted: December 17, 2010 by **rhodeislandrock** in <u>Album Reviews</u>, <u>DVD Reviews</u>

Tags: AOR, Black Metal, Classic Rock, Death Metal, Gary Barden, Glam, Hard Rock, Heavy Metal, Melodic Rock, Metal, Michael Schenker, Michael Schenker Group, MSG, Music, NWOBHM, Power Metal, Progressive Metal, Progressive Rock, Rock, Speed Metal, Thrash, Thrash Metal

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Michael Schenker Group – The 30th Anniversary Concert: Live In Tokyo (2010, Inakustik)

- 1. Welcome Howl intro
- 2. Feels Like A Good Thing
- 3. Cry For The Nations
- 4. Let Sleeping Dogs Lie
- 5. Armed And Ready
- 6. Victim Of Illusion
- 7. Are You Ready To Rock
- 8. I Want You
- 9. A Night To Remember
- 10. Into The Arena
- 11. Lost Horizons
- 12. Rock My Nights Away
- 13. On And On
- 14. Attack Of The Mad Axeman
- 15. Ride On My Way
- 16. Rock Bottom
- 17. Dance Lady Gipsy
- 18. Doctor, Doctor

DVD Bonus Material: The L.A. Rehearsal and Backstage Impressions

Band Lineup:

Michael Schenker – Lead Guitar Gary Barden – Vocals Wayne Findlay – Guitars, Keyboards & Backing Vocals Neil Murray – Bass Simon Phillips – Drums

Producers & Directors: Kiyoshi Iwasawa, Kota Akutsu, Shin Yamamoto

Country: USA & Germany

Total Time (DVD) = 1:39:54 (concert) & approx 25 minutes (bonus material)

Total Time (2 CDs) = 1:39:54

Michael Schenker
Inakustik Music

On June 13, 2010, the Michael Schenker Group performed a concert at the Nakano Sun Plaza in Tokyo, Japan as part of the Japanese tour celebrating the 30th anniversary of the band and the first MSG lineup. You could call this a reunion of sorts with Michael joining forces again with original vocalist Gary Barden and drummer Simon Phillips, who played the drums on the first MSG album. Also along for the ride is long time Schenker guitarist/keyboardist Wayne Findlay and former Whitesmake/Black Sabbath/Vow Wow bassist Neil Murray. Japan has always been a country in love with their guitar heroes and Michael is certainly fits that bill, I have been a fan of his career for years spanning his time with the Scorpions, UFO, MSG and solo. I caught this tour with a

different lineup back in July and it was one of the best shows I've seen this year and the first time I saw MSG live but the lineup was different for the U.S. tour. What we have here with the 30th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT: LIVE IN TOKYO is two separate releases: a DVD and a 2 CD live album.

DVD:

The DVD version of the 30th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT captures the all-star MSG lineup in full force at the Nakano Sun Plaza in Tokyo, Japan in front of a sold out crowd. There's the full 18 song concert shot with multiple cameras and a bonus section that includes part of the tour rehearsal in Los Angeles with band interviews and a behind the scenes backstage look at the Tokyo show. As far as the setlist goes, it's basically the same as the one I saw in Foxboro, MA except that the running order is different and there are thwo additional songs: 'Feels Like A Good Thing' and 'Victim Of Illusion'. There are plenty of classic MSG tracks and the band focuses on the first two MSG albums with a combined ten songs including 'Cry For The Nations', 'Armed And Ready', 'On And On' and 'Let Sleeping Dogs Lie', as well as, 'Rock My Nights Away' from the Barden led BUILT TO DESTROY (1983). Also thrown in the mix are two UFO classics, 'Doctor Doctor' and 'Rock Bottom', and four new songs, 'I Want You', 'A Night To Remember', 'Ride On My Way' and 'Dance Lady Gipsy'. I really enjoyed watching the DVD as each musician is an expert at their intruments but the real treat here is watching Michael play from right up close. When I went to see the concert in Foxboro, it took a while for me to get myself positioned in front of Michael because that's what everyone wants to do! The DVD allowed me to sit and watch one of the greatest guitarists play with ease and grace and truly enjoying himself. The performances are top notch and the set highlights for me are all the MSG classics but the new songs really fit right in. I saw 'I Want You', 'A Night To Remember' and 'Ride On My Way' (from 2008's IN THE MIDST OF BEAUTY) live in Foxboro so I knew they were going to be great watching this DVD but the added bonus is getting 'Dance Lady Gipsy' from the Schenker Barden Acoustic Project – GIPSY LADY (2009). What you are buying this DVD for is the concert but there is a 25 minute bonus section that is pretty cool too. The first part is rehearsal footage from 1/9/10 in Los Angeles mixed with interviews with all the band members. The best interviews are with Michael, as he recounts his career with all his bands, and Simon Phillips, who provides a little more insight into his involvement on the debut MSG record. The second part of the bonus material is behind the scenes backstage footage of mostly soundcheck and the backstage are but there is also some cool footage of Michael interacting with fans after the show. As far as bonuses go, this is pretty basic stuff but cool nonetheless.

CD:

As far as the CD goes, it's a 2 CD set that is a carbon copy of the DVD.....the setlist is identical as is the booklet but there are no bonuses on the CD version. I like having the live album for my stereo, car and iPod because it's all about the music and there is plenty of classic songs on this live album.

Bottom Line:

A solid release here both on DVD and CD and a definite tour souvenir for me. I've followed Michael Schenker throughout his career but I've only seen him live once, on this tour almost two months after this DVD was shot. Seeing MSG live was one of my all-time favorite concerts so this DVD and CD has a special place in my musical history and, when I listen to the CD, I see the show I saw. It's hard to believe that it's been 30 years since the first MSG album debuted but 1980 was a long time ago for sure. It's great to see and hear all these classic tracks from the first two MSG albums live and it's great to hear some of the newer songs fit in seemlessly. Definitely well worth your time checking out if your an MSG fan, a great concert.

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All hail MSG!

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Volkher Hofmann says:

December 17, 2010 at 11:56 am

Agreed.

One of the few better DVDs I have.

Anecdote: It's strange seeing Neil Murray here on a bigger stage again. The last time I saw him live was in a small Italian restaurant (which doubles a s a pub on weekends) in a small village (and the term village is more than apt) out in the south-western part of my country. Although the place was packed to the rafters, I don't think more than 100 people fit in there (stacked sideways). He was on tour with Petter Green (one of my faves and one of the greatest musicians that ever lived) and I stood there wondering how these two giants (in both cases also body-size wise) ended up there. Still, they played a great gig.

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