



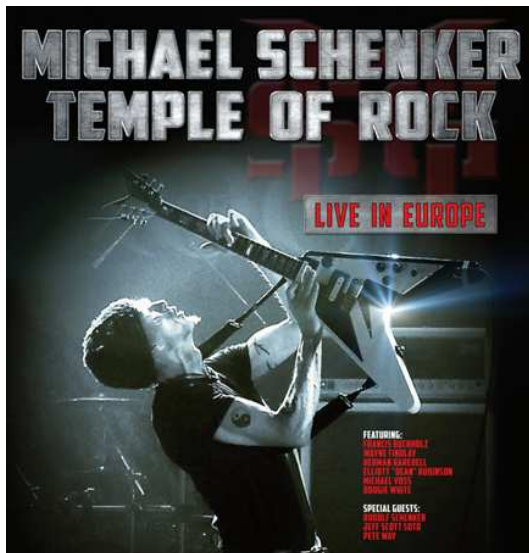
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MUSIC REVIEWS

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MICHAEL SCHENKER - TEMPLE OF ROCK



Review by Ruben Mosqueda

Michael Schenker has been toured extensively throughout the past few years since getting his bearings together. Schenker's last studio effort 'Temple of Rock' received mixed reviews. The line-up for that tour varied from country to country, for instance in the United States he toured with Robin McAuley on vocals and he enlisted different singers and line-ups in other countries.

Schenker's new DVD 'Temple of Rock Live in Europe' is a slick, well produced DVD, shot live in Tilburg, Netherlands. The set is jam packed with UFO, MSG and Scorpions classics; there are 19 tracks in all. The line-up for this DVD is of course Michael Schenker on lead guitar, longtime rhythm guitarist and keyboardist Wayne Findlay, drummer Herman Rarebell (formerly of Scorpions), Francis Buchholz (formerly of Scorpions) on bass and vocalist Doogie White (formerly of Rainbow and Yngwie Malmsteen). White is a great vocalist however his style doesn't quite fit the Scorpions, MSG and UFO back catalog. White tends to 'over sings' the majority of the songs in the set; therefore making them 'difficult' to digest at times. While Schenker and Findlay are clearly into the performance, it's hard to believe that Buchholz, Rarebell or White are---they just aren't as convincing. There's very little chemistry with the band on stage which makes it for a slightly less than exciting sight.

Schenker plays the songs with a fire and urgency that isn't matched by the rest of the band; which is a shame. Unlike the performance that I witnessed in winter of 2012 this doesn't measure up---at all. McAuley was very charismatic and is more of a showman than White is. Granted White is a 'better' vocalist but technique isn't everything obviously. Singer Michael Voss makes an appearance for 'Hanging On' from the 'Temple of Rock' album. While a great tune it brings the band's momentum to a screeching halt. A questionable choice in the set is "Rock You Like A Hurricane" which has been played to death. Should I make mention that Michael Schenker didn't even play on this song?! Or "Blackout" for that matter; unlike other Scorpions classics like; "Lovedrive," "Another Piece of Meat," "Coast to Coast," and "Holiday" which he was featured on. Sorely missed in the set is the UFO classic "Too Hot to Handle" which could have easily replaced the over played and overrated "Rock You Like A Hurricane" or "Blackout."

My rant aside 'Temple of Rock Live in Europe' features all the usual suspects; "Into The Arena," "Armed and Ready," "Cry for Nations," "Assault Attack," "Lights Out," "On and On," "Shoot Shoot," "Rock Bottom," and "Doctor Doctor." Included as a bonus are five tracks from Michael Schenker's set from the High Voltage Festival from 2012. This performance features special guests; guitarist Rudolph Schenker (Scorpions), bassist Pete Way (UFO), and singer Jeff Scott Soto (Journey, Yngwie Malmsteen, Eyes). In addition you get footage prior to the

band's set and sound check footage. While not the definitive Schenker live DVD 'Temple of Rock Live in Europe' is a good retrospective of what Michael Schenker is all about.