

Michael Schenker's Temple of Rock: Live in Europe DVD showcases his body of work

by Ruben Mosqueda on February 7, 2013

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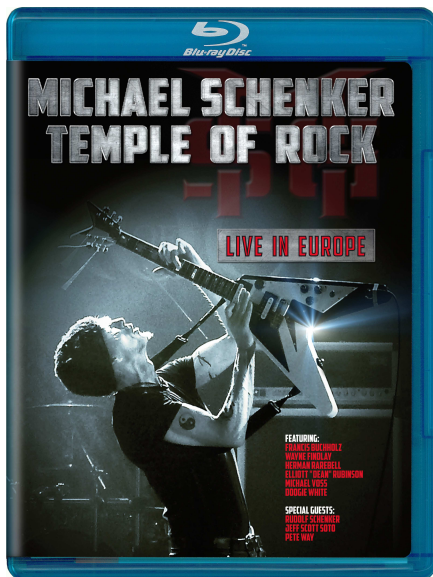
Michael Schenker has toured extensively through the past few years since his last studio effort, Temple of Rock, which had received mixed reviews. The band's live lineup has varied from country to country; for instance in the United States he toured with Robin McAuley on vocals and enlisted different singers and lineups 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, 19 tracks in all.

The lineup for this DVD consists of Michael Schenker on lead guitar (of course), 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-sing the majority of the songs in the set, 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 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. 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. Though it's a great tune, it brings the band's momentum to a screeching halt. Another 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 2012 High Voltage Festival. 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 scenes shot 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.

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Tags: Doogie White, Francis Buchholz, Herman Rarebell, Michael Schenker, Michael Voss, MSG, Scorpions, UFO, Wayne Findlay



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Ruben Mosqueda has been passionate with hard rock and heavy music and a fan for 29 plus years. Since 1999 he has reviewed concerts, albums, and conducted interviews with acts ranging from the well-known to the unsung earning their stripes duking it out in local clubs. Over the years his work has been referenced on the websites; melodicrock.com, metasludge.com, blabbermouth.net, eddietrunk.com, referenced in interviews and featured in print abroad in Classic Rock Magazine. He's a regular contributor on sleazeroxx.com, Rockconfidential.com and most recently Metaltitans.com. Ruben also delves into the worlds of contemporary blues and alternative country music. Ruben prides himself on telling it how he sees it and gives an unbiased review.