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Michael Schenker – ‘Temple Of Rock Live In Europe’ DVD Review

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By *phil*
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Looking at Michael Schenker now it is hard to believe that through much of the noughties he looked on the verge of collapse, a spent force destroyed by the very rock 'n' roll spirit he spent his years championing. Come the end of the decade, however, and Michael reappeared shorn, shaved and focused and in the process he released 'Temple of Rock', a lean, mean, hungry rock 'n' roll animal that brought Michael's talents into sharp focus. Subsequent performances, including a blistering appearance at last year's High Voltage festival (much of which is included here as bonus footage) showcased Michael on the form of his life, blazing away on his guitar alongside fellow Scorpions Herman Rarebell and Francis Buchholz whilst excellent vocalist Doogie White fronts the band with consummate skill and authority.

Released on DVD, Blu Ray, CD and as a special edition containing all three formats, 'Temple of rock – live in Europe' is a testament to the strength of Michael Schenker's work and his return to form. Featuring a full concert recorded in Tilburg in 2012, bonus footage from High Voltage and behind the scenes footage, this is a brilliant souvenir for those lucky enough to witness the man in the flesh and the perfect live album for those who weren't. Featuring over two hours of music, the DVD is the subject of our review and, as you'd expect from an artist who has revitalised himself with quite such skill, it is a worthy building block in the temple of rock that Michael has spent his life worshipping at.

From the off this is classy stuff. On 'into the arena' Michael and his band come bounding on stage looking lean, fit and ecstatic to be rocking such an enthusiastic crowd in Tilburg. The into gives Michael plenty of opportunities to show off his dexterity and then 'Armed and Ready' sees Doogie White appear and from the start he has the audience in the palm of his hand as he sings "is it hard enough, is it loud enough?", the assembled crowd crying out in affirmation. It's a stunning performance from all concerned and the pristine mix (available, happily, in PCM, DD 5.1 and DTS 5.1) allows the various elements to shine through in all their glory. 'Lovedrive' sees the band kick into another rousing blast of melodic hard rock whilst Doogie excels even his own mighty performance on the Tank DVD, his perfect phrasing and blazing ravishing of the high notes a joy to listen to throughout the performance. Next up, the hard-driving 'another piece of meat' (another one of the four tracks from the Scorpions' evergreen 'Lovedrive' album) slays the audience with its breathless rendition, whilst the whole band look like they're having the time of their lives belting out these hard rock classics to an audience who are equally

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