Features | Columns | Blogs | News | Music | Film | TV | DVDs | Books | Comics | Multimedia | Events | Front about contributors submissions book series advertising contests Media Center PopMatters Picks

Google





by lain Ellis

a PopMatters book

PopMatters Feeds

PopMatters

M Think

Blogs

Listen

Watch

Nead Read

Play

Video game reviews

In Person

Live event articles

PopWire news/commentary

Lwitter Follow us on Twitter

News 🔯

All PM blog posts

Music reviews/news

All PM content, except news

Features, columns and essays

Film, TV and DVD reviews/news

Book and comic reviews/news



The Paris Concert [DVD] [Paris Concert, The]

(Inakustic / MVD) US release date: 25 November 2008

by Terrence Butcher

Print Comments (0)

Seventy-five cents! Seventy-five cents! Seventy-five cents! These are the starting prices - on Half.com - for Vivid, Time's Up, and Stain, respectively, the first three studio releases from Living Colour. It's a damn shame to me that cut-out prices are the best a vendor can ask for material from one of rockdom's most accomplished bands, a group sadly jettisoned after so-called grunge captured the hearts of Generation X and some younger - listeners.

Indeed, Black Rock Coalition director Earl Douglas argued in a recent SPIN piece that Living Colourfoundered in the early '90s partly because grunge lumped the band in with '80s metal acts.

Living Colour? A quick primer for you younguns: Living Colouris a celebrated rock quartet, formed in 1983, whose music fuses metal, funk, jazz , punk, hip-hop, among other styles, into a heady, genrebending stew. They're best remembered when thought of at all - for their debut disc, the aforementioned Vivid, which went double platinum, spawned the Grammywinning Top 15 single "Cult Of Personality", and got a production assist from Sir Michael Phillip Jagger himself. Oh, they're also African-American. Did I forget to mention that? Believe me, nobody else has.

Living Colour called it quits back in the

LIVING COLOUR

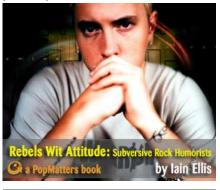
AMAZON

mid-'90s, after disappointing business for Stain, but reformed, fittingly, at punk Mecca CBGB's, to play a gig, then record

new tracks. They've since released several concert DVDs, and the latest is The Paris Concert, recorded at the New Morning, in the City Of Lights, during their summer 2007 European jaunt. They chose an eclectic mélange of classic Living Colour tunes, covers, and some notable songs from their most recent studio album - yes, I still use that term -Colleidoscope.

I hadn't seen the band in many years, so I was definitely curious about their appearances. Frontman Corey Glover has morphed - I kid you not into actor Andre Braugher! The resemblance is amazing. Glover's rounded, well-nourished physique and double chin literally scream Braugher. Attention Spike: When you do the Living Colourstory - hint, hint! – sign up Andre. He's always been a fave of mine since his days on NBC's stellar Homicide, anyhow.

Also absent are Glover's flowing dreadlocks, replaced by a natural, reddish do, itself mostly covered by a tweed cap. Judging by Glover's



TODAY ON POPMATTERS

FEATURES | recent

The New Golden Age of British TV Comedy 20 QUESTIONS: Max & Jason

COLUMNS | recent

PICKIN' DOWN THE LINE: Hank's Other Side: Religion, Radio, and the Roots of Country Music FIELD STUDIES: Art Imitates Death

MEDIACENTER: MP3 Quartet: The Von Bondies and more SOUND AFFECTS: Communicating Music Heart to Heart: An Interview with Yo-Yo Ma

MOVING PIXELS: TWiG 2009-02-02: In Drought, We Look

to Parody
PERIPATETIC POSTCARDS: PopBlogging the Super Bowl, II SHORT ENDS AND LEADER: Kevin Smith: Not Quite Mainstream (Zack and Miri Make a Porno/ Sold Out!: A Threevening with...)

MUSIC | recent | short takes | archive

Phosphorescent: To Willie
Zion I: The Take Over
Marykate O'Neil: Underground
Cut Off Your Hands: You and I

Brett Dennen: Hope for the Hopeless Madlib the Beat Konducta: WLIB AM: King of the

Wigflip

EVENTS | recent | archive Gogol Bordello

+ West Philadelphia Orchestra — 31.December.08: Philadelphia, PA

TELEVISION | recent | archive

:. The Trials of Ted Haggard :. House: 100th Episode

DVDS | recent | archive

Mannix: The Second Season
 Calexico: Live from Austin TX
 The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor

BOOKS | recent | archive :. Future Missionaries of America by Matthew Vollmer :. Little Bee by Chris Cleave

MULTIMEDIA | recent | archive

:. Tom Clancy's EndWar

NEWS | recent

. INTERVIEW: Simon Baker is looking good, and so is 'The

The Boss and his band Steel the show
A year after Microsoft buyout offer made, Yahoo struggles to define itself

Switch to digital TV may be delayed, but you should be ready anyway

2/2/2009 1:11 PM 1 of 3



portly frame, I would also guess that the yellow bodysuit made famous in the "Cult of Personality" vid now belongs to the Salvation Army. And Corey...if you read this, I mean no disrespect.

Living Colour were in stunning form at the show, clearly still excited at performing some 20 years after Vivid hit the stores. Original bassist Muzz Skillings bowed out after Time's Up, but his replacement, the eminently capable Doug Wimbish, did not disappoint. And, late in the show, drummer Will Calhoun delivers an atmospheric, rangy drum solo that begins sounding vaguely Afro-Cuban, then detours down numerous different paths, the audience following with rapt attention.

The group kicks off their set with the apocalyptic "Type", a prominent single from the ambitious Time's Up, and one I've always loved. Near the end of the song, the band slows the tempo down to a crawl, finishing with a reggaeish drawl. I like to think that "Type" - in which Glover rails against narrow thinking and "stereotypes"—also encapsulates the group's struggle to define and present their music on their own terms, without interference from folks - friend or foe - who just don't get it.

Uber-guitarist Vernon Reid – a god of the strings if there ever was one – really cuts loose midway through the next tune, "Middle Man", then takes Wimbish and drummer Calhoun on a playfully funky ride through "Funny Vibe", an amusing and pointed attack on racial assumptions from Vivid. Calhoun and Wimbish were slated to work together in Mos Def's stillborn Black Jack Johnson Project, and I still yearn to see that come to fruition, but I have no qualms about them continuing with Living Colour. Hey, they can moonlight, can't they?

I do wish the guys spent more time on the Temptations' "Papa Was a Rolling Stone", instead performing only a brief snippet, as they did with their own "Glamour Boys", a snide diss - I once considered slightly homophobic - of hipper-than-thou New York scenesters during the Bright Lights, Big City '80s. Wimbish proves his mettle once again with an ethereal, spacey groove to introduce Colleidoscope's "Nova", then switches to jackhammer beats on "Either Way". Few would dispute Skillings' talent, but those same few would also salute Wimbish's deft playing.

In the angry "Go Away", Glover shouts the titular refrain, an excellent if unintended - rebuke to near-sighted A & R goons who sought to compartmentalize the band. In fact, "Type", "Go Away", and "Ignorance Is Bliss" comprise a poetic triumvirate which denounces bigotry, while simultaneously giving the middle finger to industry jerks who celebrated the group's early success, then quickly dismissed them.

I'd not heard "Flying" before, another track from the sadly neglected Colleidoscope, but it's clearly a highlight, a stunning tempo-switching epic that might have scored maximum airplay on MTV, if that now-silly network still ran videos, instead of moronic reality "programs" about equally moronic people.

Two vintage Living Colour numbers close out the show: "Love Rears Its Ugly Head", the tastiest slice of metal-funk I've ever heard, and their anthem, the overrated "Cult of Personality", which has the dubious distinction of being their highest-charting American single. Cagily, they slipped the punkish, frenetic screamer "Time's Up" in between the two aforementioned songs, but it's not listed on the DVD box.

As one might expect, the audience is mostly white, and one shouldn't blame that entirely on the Parisian location. Living Colour have always had difficulty attracting black audiences, particularly in the Land of the Free. You can point to any number of causal factors—the British Invasion's unintentional hijacking of rock n' roll from its Afro-American roots, ahistorical young blacks with no interest in music from the Jim Crow years, Black radio's rejection of acts that don't fit an urban contemporary mold—all these are grist for another mill.

The fact remains that blacks are still disassociated from rock in the minds of most listeners, black, white, or otherwise, around the globe. The chart dominance of hip-hop, R&B, and American Idol pretenders will do little to change this. It's unlikely that Living Colour will score much chart success in this climate, but they've secured their place in rock history, and that may have to be sufficient. I know one thing...I'm gonna go buy Colleidoscope!

POPULAR ON POPMATTERS

Read **Emailed Commented**

- Part 1: AmpLive to Damien Jurado (Features) John Frusciante: The Empyrean (Reviews) Eugene O'Neill's Zona de Guerra (In the Zone) 3.
- (Reviews) Bruce Springsteen: Working on a Dream
- (Reviews)
- (Reviews)
 Part 2: Katzenjammer to Xiu Xiu (Features)
 Robert Pollard: The Crawling Distance (Reviews)
 A.C. Newman: Get Guilty (Reviews)
 Street Art's Day in the Sun (Features)
 Franz Ferdinand: Tonight: Franz Ferdinand

- (Reviews)
 Waltz with Bashir (Vals Im Bashir) (Reviews)
 Lie to Me: Series Premiere (Reviews)
 Antony and the Johnsons: The Crying Light 10.
- 12. (Reviews)
- Needles in the Haystack (Features)
 Dancing in the Street: Our 25 Favorite Motown
- Singles (Features)
 PPP: Abundance (Reviews)
- Visions of the World (Columns) Bon Iver: Blood Bank (Reviews)
- 18.
- 50 years later, Buddy Holly remains frozen in time (PopWire)
- Jason Isbell (Features)
 Where the Frak is All My Money? (Columns)
 The Bird & the Bee: Ray Guns Are Not Just the
- Future (Reviews)
 Nickel Eye: The Time of the Assassins (Reviews)
 Various Artists: Johnny Cash Remixed (Reviews)
 Joseph Arthur & the Lonely Astronauts:
 Temporary People (Reviews)

- 25. Art Imitates Death (Columns)

RECENT MUSIC

In bold are PopMatters Picks, the best in new music.

CD REVIEWS

- .. Acid Mothers Temple and the Cosmic Inferno

- Dave Alvin
- Antony and the
- Johnsons
 .. Joseph Arthur & the
- Lonely Astronauts
 .. Asylum Street
- Awake My Soul/Help Me to Sina
- Chet Baker Jon Black
- Sinden

.. PPP

Soulja Boy Tell 'Em Bruce Springsteen

Phosphorescent Charlie Pickett

Robert Pollard

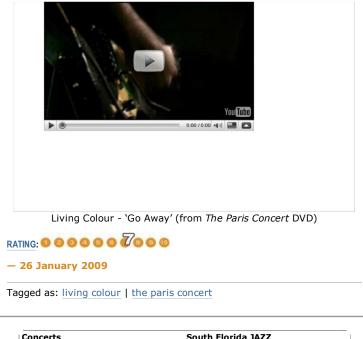
Senses Fail

Tom Russell
The Secret History

The Matthew Shipp

- The Bird & the Bee Rafael Toral

2 of 3 2/2/2009 1:11 PM



Concerts

Concert Tickets - Cheap. Check Our Prices. Save 10% Or More.

South Florida JAZZ

Great Live Jazz in Concert! Sign up for FREE

```
:. Bon Iver
:. Johnny Cash
:. Kasey Chambers and
Shane Nicholson
:. Vic Chesnutt, Elf
Power, & the Amorphous
                                                     DVDs Two Cow Garage
Unearth
Various Artists: Titan:
It's All Pop! / Eccentric
Soul: The Young
                                                               Disciples
                                                               :. Warship
:. Zion I
    Cut Off Your Hands
Dälek
    Brett Dennen
Emerald Park
Franz Ferdinand
John Frusciante
                                                               EVENT REVIEWS
                                                              L. Eugene O'Neill's Zona de
Guerra (In the Zone)
L. George Clinton and
Parliament/Funkadelic
Versus The Greyboy
    Kenny Garrett
José González
Heltah Skeltah
                                                               Allstars
.. Gogol Bordello + West
The Jacksons:
Destiny / Triumph
. Axton Kincaid
. The Knux
. Lady GaGa
                                                               Philadelphia Orchestra

Ida Maria

Kathleen Edwards

    Kathleen Edwards
    Oasis
    Q-Tip + The Cool Kids
    The Meat Puppets
    Wild Light + Birdfeeder
    Wu-Tang Clan
    Lotus
Luminescent Orchestrii
    M83
     MV & EE With the
 Golden Road
                                                      Living Colour: The Paris
    Madlib the Beat
 Konducta
                                                           Sonny Rollins: Saxophone
    Taj Mahal
Marykate O'Neil
                                                      Colossus
                                                      Live from Philadelphia

Wu-Tang Clan: Wu: The
Story of the Wu-Tang Clan

Claexico: Live from Austin
     Matt & Kim
     The Music Lovers
     National Eye
     A.C. Newman
    Nickel Eye
                                                       .. Christoph Dreher: House
of the Rising Punk

: Waylon Jennings: Waylon Jennings Live from
Austin, TX '84

: Alison Krauss: A Hundred Miles or More: Live
From the Tracking Room
: Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers: Runnin' Down
```

The Yardbirds: The Story of the Yardbirds

advertising | about | contributors | submissions © 1999-2008 PopMatters.com. All rights reserved. PopMatters.com™ and PopMatters™ are trademarks of PopMatters Media, Inc. and PopMatters Magazine.

2/2/2009 1:11 PM 3 of 3