



DVD: Curtis Mayfield In Concert (1990)

60 min - Music Video Distributors

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[Back to REVIEWS](#)

[Back to FEATURES](#)



Curtis Mayfield possessed a magical combination of soul, pop, funk and social conscience, all packed into a voice of smooth, sweet perfection. He brought it with The Impressions in the 60s, he brought it as a solo artist in the 70s, and even though his popularity didn't keep him in large arenas far beyond the age of Superfly, he never

stopped bringing it. At least not until a tragic, freak accident changed everything. High winds brought some stage light rigging down on top of him, leaving him a quadriplegic.

This video was filmed on April 28, 1990, for the German television series, Ohne Filter. It was just a few months before the accident. Mayfield was singing just a little bit softer than he usually did, but it was that smooth, sweet voice, still up in the stratosphere after all those years. With a solid band behind him (featuring Randy Keith Brown [bass], Lee Goodness [drums], Buzz Amato [keyboards] and Louis Stefanell ([percussions]), Mayfield performed a handful of his classics, including "Superfly," "Freddie's Dead," "Gypsy Woman," "It's Alright," "Pusherman," and "Billy Jack." The atmosphere is relaxed, the performances are fine and the

sound quality is very good, coming at you in Dolby Digital 5.1 stereo sound. There's a bonus menu with an interview with the producer and a Mayfield biography. The DVD is all-region.

Watching this can be a little bit of a sad experience, but only if you let your mind wander. After all, you're seeing one of the last times Curtis Mayfield was able to play his guitar. He wasn't into mourning himself, but that was the one thing he allowed himself some tears over. He really missed playing that guitar, and it was our loss, as well. The tragedy was complete when Curtis passed away the day after Christmas, 1999.

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