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In Concert: Obhe Filter Revisited

Robben Ford



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[Robben Ford](#)

Album

In Concert: Obhe Filter Revisited

Rating

★★★★☆

Release Date

Mar 18, 2008

Recording Date

Sep 18, 1997

Label

Inakustik

Review

by Hal

The "revisited" in the DVD's title refers to this Sept. 18, 1997 show being Robben Ford's second appearance on the German TV program, released on DVD over a decade later. Ford finds the guitarist fronting a terrific trio of bass, drums and keyboards on a somewhat 52 minute performance that frustratingly fades out during the final song. Too bad he couldn't have rescued extra footage from the session to extend the playing time, but what he has here is extraordinary. Ford is in top form on this predominantly instrumental set recording his *Tiger Walk* tour featuring five of that album's nine tracks, with a few more ultimately appearing on 1998's *Authorized Bootleg*. The approach falls between jazz fusion, soul, and blues, a unique combination of Ford's influences that he and his band navigate with precision. He cuts an imposing image with his cream colored Telecaster offset against a black outfit and truly seems to be enjoying himself on a selection of music that allows him to sing on a few songs and also share the spotlight with the other musicians. The old "Chevrolet" is given a jaunty spin with an arrangement Ford likely picked up from Taj Mahal, but it's on the nearly 9 minute version of "Freedom" that Ford shifts into overdrive. He goes from fusion to hard rock with ease, laying back before charging ahead as the band urges him on. Although he can shred if needed, Ford is more concerned with dynamics and consistent sophisticated solos terse with musical drama. He picks up a Strat for "Tiger Walk," grooving and prowling around the melody with a trebly tone that morphs between genres with a Dan styled effortlessness. The audio and video are both superb with the surround sound wide open and each instrument clearly defined. The camera work is as classy as the music, featuring enough close-ups on Ford's frets to soothe any budding guitarist, but with plenty of smooth transition shots of the band. This is an essential item for fans of the six string and a great introduction for those new to Robben Ford's astonishing talents. The only drawback is the DVD's rather abbreviated length, but the performance is so flawless and perfectly executed that only curmudgeons will grouse. Oddly, the cover shot is not from the set but from his first appearance on the show, a minor yet sloppy mistake that should have eluded the disc's manufacturer.

Type

Video, Live

Genre

Jazz

AMG Album ID

R 1310945

Corrections to this Entry?

Tracks

	Title	Composer
1	Just Like It Is [DVD]	
2	When I Leave Here [DVD]	
3	The Miller's Son [DVD]	
4	Chevrolet [DVD]	
5	Freedom [DVD]	
6	Top of the Hill [DVD]	
7	Tiger Walk [DVD]	
8	The Champ [DVD]	
9	In the Beginning [DVD]	
10	Bonus Materials [*]	

Releases

Year	Type	Label	Catalog #
2008	DVD	Inakustik	6541
2008	DVD	Inakustik	0166541

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