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Al Di Meola – One Of These Nights (DVD-Video Concert)

Picture: C+ Sound: B- Extras: C
 Concert: B-

Three guitarists, a string quartet, and some of the best musicians in the business converged cooperatively on May 17th 2004 in Ludwigsburg, Germany as the Scala for an impressive Latino/Jazz concert. Headed by Al Di Meola, **One of These Nights** (which does not offer The Eagles' classic) offers nearly two hours of surprises and jumps across all kinds of music genres during its course. The music is as follows, most written by Di Meola:

- 1) *Innamorata*
- 2) *Misterio*
- 3) *Azzurra*
- 4) *Orient Blue*
- 5) *Rhapsody Of Fire*
- 6) *This Way Before*
- 7) *One Last June Night*
- 8) *Fugatta**
- 9) *Libertango**
- 10) *Beyond The Mirage*
- 11) *Egyptian Danza*

The songs designated with an * are by Astor Piazzolla, whose music we have already reviewed on this website in the Super Audio Compact Disc format. This DVD-Video does not sound as good, but it is a decent performer that offers a big auditorium and a good audience, which is not always guaranteed in these events. Fortunately, some people appreciate music more than others, and you can never get enough such people in the crowd.

The anamorphically enhanced 1.78 X 1/16 X 9 was shot on video, but is still softness in its finer details. It is still decent enough to enjoy. The Dolby Digital 4.1 is an odd configuration for a current concert, but this has a slight edge over the usual Pro Logic, though there was room for DTS of some sort and would have really brought this show home. An alternate PCM 2.0 Stereo with Pro Logic surrounds has a limited range where there is fullness and detail over the Dolby, but the Dolby is better here overall. The show is solid and performance of the DVD is almost up to capturing the show overall. The only extras are text frames on Di Meola and a 9-minutes-long piece showing the preparation of all involved for the night's performance. There is also a nice 8-page multi-lingual booklet inside the unusual silver boardpaper case, where the suspended DVD holder has room behind it for the booklet. This is an unusual novelty, from a title that tries to be different in many ways. Priced nicely, you can find out for yourself.


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- Nicholas Sheffo

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