

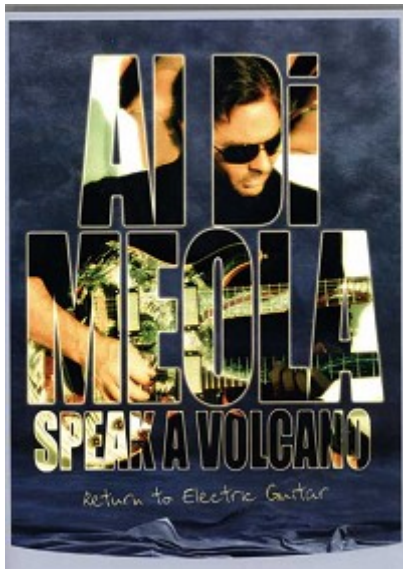
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DVD Review

A Message Exclusive Look At New Music

review by Joe Milliken, Message Arts&Entertainemt

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The legendary Al DiMeola has been creating his distinctive styles of jazz, progressive rock, acoustic and flamenco guitar work for over 30 years and to this day, remains a revered and respected artist among not only his fans but also his peers.

With the release of *Speak A Volcano: Return To Electric Guitars*, his first ever "electric" DVD release on MVD Visual, DiMeola has assembled a virtuoso band, including old friend and percussionist Gumbi Ortiz, bassist Mike Pope, drummer Jason Taylor and keyboard player Mario Parmisano.

Recorded live at Leverkusener Jazztage, Germany in November of 2006, DiMeola and friends kick things off by indulging in some inventive electric fusion reminiscent of his early solo work and excursions with Chick Corea's *Return To Forever* band.

Looking years younger than his age, the 53 year old guitar master unleashes a barrage of styles including progressive-rock riffs, gorgeous passages of world music and tasteful jazzy scales through such songs as "San Marco" from his latest (at the time) solo release *Consequences Of Chaos* and "One Night, Last June", an 11-minute epic piece from his 1991 solo effort *Kiss My Axe*.

From there the set takes an immediate left turn as DiMeola pulls

out his acoustic guitar for an extended set-eight songs to be exact-of tracks from the aforementioned *Consequences*, as well as *Diabolic Inventions And Seduction For Solo Guitar*, which features songs by tango composer Astor Piazzolla.

DiMeola then straps the electric guitar back on for "Tao" and Chick Corea's "Senior Mouse", a 12-minute epic which Al recorded on his

1978 *Casino* album, before the closing "Fugata", another extended jam with each musician really stretching out and displaying their chops.

Recorded in Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround Sound, the DVD also features bonus footage including an interview with DiMeola as well as an "Al's Guitar Tip" lesson. This is truly a must for fans, but also a great introduction for those not familiar with the legend of DiMeola.