



America: *Struttin' Our Stuff*

Label: Inakustik 2006



It's a testament to America's lack of concern about looking, acting, or seemingly even remotely cool that they should use such a woefully un-hip phrase as the title of their live album. Fortunately, the songs contained on *Struttin' Our Stuff* handily demonstrate why, despite that lack of concern, the public has embraced them – both on record and in concert – since their self-titled debut in 1972. Given that longtime America fans Adam Schlesinger (Fountains of Wayne) and James Iha (Smashing Pumpkins) are producing the band's next studio album – due October 17th and featuring guest appearances from Ryan Adams, Ben Kweller, Stephen Bishop, and members of Nada Surf and My Morning Jacket – this acoustic performance is a perfect way to get a glimpse of what the band is all about. In addition to all seven of the band's top 10 hits, singers Gerry Beckley and Dewey Bunnell explore a few lesser singles, like "Daisy Jane" and the band's theme song for the 1982 animated film, "The Last Unicorn." It won't replace either the band's box set or even their single-disc anthology (both released by Rhino) as a definitive America collection, but it certainly makes for a nice, intimate introduction to the group. ~[Will Harris](#)

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