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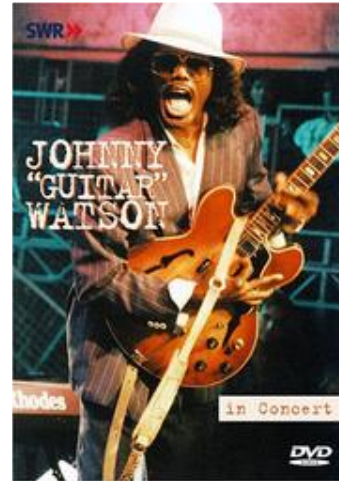
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Johnny "Guitar" Watson In Concert (Ohne Filter)

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

Johnny "Guitar" Watson did not get his middle name from the great Nicholas Ray Western with Sterling Hayden and Joan Crawford, but simply because his playing was so aggressive and unique. That is despite making his breakthrough in the 1950s, the time of the film, in Huston, Texas. Gone by 1996 unexpectedly, this July 2, 1990 concert from the German television concert series **Ohne Filter**, which offers the usual nearly hour-long program. On top of that, there is an extended version of a performance from an earlier appearance on the show from 1987, which is a first for this series.



Since there was room for both shows on this DVD, it is odd they are both not here, but maybe Inakustik will issue the other show later. In the meantime, the songs here are:

- 1) *Strike On Computers*
- 2) *Superman Lover*
- 3) *I Wanna Ta Ta You Baby*
- 4) *Nothing Left To Be Desired*
- 5) *Ain't Life A Bitch*
- 6) *A Real Mother For Ya*
- 7) *Three Hours Past Midnight*
- 8) *Gangster Of Love*
- 9) *A Real Mother For Ya*
- 10) 1987 BONUS TRACK: *Gangster Of Love* – Extended Version

Being a 1995 release and having issued a few dozen titles already in the series, MVD and Inakustik have released one of the best titles yet. More bonus tracks would be nice, though I wonder when the show will go 16 X 9/1.78 X 1. With that said, Watson was good, even in his final years, maybe just playing so hard that he became the musician's equivalent of a workaholic. There is some repetition in this particular performance, bonus track notwithstanding. This may be seen as an extended jam kind of thing, but for someone who enjoys that kind of thing, it did get dragged out. Otherwise, this is a good concert for its brief running time, with his blues guitar and vocals in good shape.

The full frame PAL color video is about what would expect for a taping of the time, having the usual limits in its otherwise good color and limited definition. The sound is available in the usual PCM CD-type 2.0 16bit/48kHz Stereo, as well as a slightly better Dolby Digital 5.1 AC-3, which both sound decent. The PCM is not bad, nor is the Dolby, but neither are spectacular. The 1987 clip plays about as well. We have heard better and worse versus this release in the **Ohne Filter** series. Besides repeating the same stereo cords ad placement, other DVDs in the series, and **Ohne Filter** producer interview, it has a biography of Ford, the brief history of the band and other

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>Bring Me The Head Of
Alfredo Garcia

interesting items about the reach of Watson's work until his death. Obviously, this is one of his last captured concerts, so that gives it an added cache. Fans will be happy enough.

- Nicholas Sheffo