



LEO KOTTKE

Home & Away Revisited, Music Video Distributors 0503, DVD

This is a 1988 Toronto Leo Kottke solo concert, just Leo and 6 or 12-string guitar. It was one of his really good nights. He's in great spirits and playing and singing wonderfully. The program splits nicely between instrumentals and vocals with plenty of his best-loved pieces. As is his wont he sometimes meanders through some pretty hilarious stories between songs. The sound is excellent.

Now Leo and guitar straight through might feel pretty static after awhile. But the filmmakers had a swell idea. They had Leo show some of his favorite places in and around his Minnesota home from his guitar room and the "lab" in his garage to boating on the nearby lake. They also taped vignettes in a visit to Nashville. One of these is a pretty astounding jam with Leo, Doc Watson and Chet Atkins.

Occasionally placing these bits between songs helps keep things interesting. They add intimacy and insight into the man and the artist.

The extras section adds an extra 15 minutes of vignettes. Some are talk, but there are dressing room jams with Michael Hedges and Michael Johnson plus Leo playing something gorgeous for a Nashville Now soundcheck. And there is a chance meeting with John Hartford in a Nashville record store, too.

Anyone familiar with Leo Kottke will eat this one up. For the uninitiated it can serve as the perfect introduction to a wonderful and most singular artist.

- Micheal Tearson