

THE MICHAEL SCHENKER GROUP 'WORLD WIDE LIVE 2004' (Metal Mind) –

An adequate performance: (while Michael isn't exactly at the top of his game), by the '04 incarnation of MSG. from the METALMANIA FESTIVAL in Spodek, Katowice (3-04).

The packaging has a nice fold out design, with a DVD & CD of the full set & a 4 pg. booklet.

The cool thing is the 'song selection: which is half UFO & half MSG. A retrospective with some career highlights, & a capable line-up, including CHRIS LOGAN on vocals, WAYNE FINDLAY on rhythm guitar & keyboards, PETE HOMES on drums & REV JONES on bass. The technical bass styling gets a *bit* tedious at times when the Pete Way parts would seem to fit better, but this also takes *some* songs to a new level, as on "LET IT ROLL", where the middle solo part turns into a majestic MAIDEN-ish trance, & let's face it, "LET IT ROLL" probably influenced MAIDEN anyway.

The show starts with "ARE YOU READY TO ROCK", from his 2nd solo album (MSG-1981), into the groove monster UFO classic; "MOTHER MARY", the title track from "ASSAULT ATTACK" & "LIGHTS OUT", (where *instead* of laying in the cut as past members did, the back-up vocals are over-bearing & lack the understated-cool that UFO embodies), but Michael's guitar lines are the main attraction as usual.

2 newer songs are included; "ARACHNAPHOBIAC" & "ROCK 'N' ROLL BELIEVER", before the instrumental centerpiece "INTO THE ARENA", where REV & PETE are given a solo spot in the breakdown.

The lengthy set ends with essentials by early MSG ("ON & ON", ARMED & READY") & UFO ("ONLY YOU CAN ROCK ME", "TOO HOT TO HANDLE", "DOCTOR, DOCTOR" & "ROCK BOTTOM").

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KISS 'COLLECTION' (World Of Blueline)– A 30-minute hodge-podge that gathers 3 or 4 sources of footage. The first is hand held video of the band arriving to the premiere of the DETROIT ROCK CITY movie in 1999. The band stops to answer a few questions on the red carpet. Then a Farewell Tour interview which' was shown on VH1 in 2000, with questions regarding the tour. It's funny to see how *seriously* PAUL & GENE field the questions as ACE & PETER sit back with a demeanor of *yeah, whatever*.

Next is some handheld video taken from their induction to the HOLLYWOOD ROCK WALK in 1993, where PAUL, GENE & BRUCE put their hands in cement in front of Guitar Center. Followed by *hideous* footage of a Q&A segment that followed the event, which is *so bad* that still photos are shown over much of the footage. *Not* essential & only 30 minutes long.

IGGY POP 'LUST FOR LIFE' (ABC) – This 1986 special documents IGGY with informative behind the scenes interviews from the period following his BLAH BLAH BLAH LP. Including interviews with the late STOOGES guitarist RON ASHETON where he walks you through historical spots in the bands history, such as a house where they once lived & 'sold lids' of weed & had their first LSD trips. IGGY's quotes are articulate, from the heart, *somewhat* humble & thought provoking, as he speaks of various events, such as when he accompanied DAVID BOWIE on a 1976 tour & reveals that seeing Bowie's professionalism was something that inspired him to follow suit. At a mere 41 minutes, this *is* able to captivate & capture an era. A few live snippets are included, with versions of "REAL WILD CHILD" & "LUST FOR LIFE". The highlight (for guitarists) is ASHETON demonstrating some of his signature riffs.

DEEP PURPLE 'LIVE 1974 (TV RECORDINGS)' (XXL)

– Certain purists had an uproar regarding this DVD, due to its misleading title. To be fair this *WAS* taken from a singular TV Recording, from 1974. Although the same show was recently officially released, this version contains the intro as it appeared on a special edition of DON KIRCHNER'S ROCK CONCERT when the show aired on TV & some alternate angles are included.

The audio quality is sub-par as compared to the official version (LIVE AT THE CALIFORNIA JAM). This is the Mark 3 line-up on the BURN tour at the CALIFORNIA JAM on 4-6-74 & *is* a historical gig worth seeing if you don't already have it. My biggest complaint is the omission of song #3 ("LAY DOWN, STAY DOWN"), & the cover listing "THE MULE", which is *not* played (except a few brief bars, which was the norm on this tour).

Opening is an essential version of "BURN" & closing is the most visually explosive version of "SPACE TRUCKIN'" ever captured, with some of BLACKMORE's *most over the top* guitar/amp destroying antics. RICHIE smashes 2 guitars, blows up his amp & tosses his cabinets AND head down to a pit far below.



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