

S O H E R E I W A N D E R U N D E R I N F I N I T E S K I E S

- "Into The Pit", Testament

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[The Michael Schenker Group - World Wide Live 2004 \(CD/DVD\)](#)



Michael Schenker is probably one of the most volatile guys in the biz, but man can he play guitar. It doesn't matter if he cancels shows, fires band mates (during the midst of a tour), or disappears in drunken stupors, there is one thing that will always hold true, he'll wail when ever he has an axe in his hand. Michael started his career almost 40 years ago playing with his brother Rudolf in the **Scorpions**, after that he joined **UFO** for 8 years, before starting his solo career back in 1979. Schenker has enjoyed a very successful solo career over the past 30 years, and has just recently released his first live DVD entitled *World Wide Live 2004*. World Wide Live is a show MSG did at the MetalMania Festival in Poland back in '04'. The package includes a CD and DVD.

Not having had the chance to see MSG before, I was pretty geeked to get this DVD. It's always a plus when the audio CD is also included in the packaging. The show is shot well like most of the footage I have seen from the Metalmania compilations. I'm assuming it is from the same folks that shoot most of those shows. My only complaint is that when the solos come on or when one of the musicians should be spotlighted, the camera man decides to focus on the audience or one of the band members just headbanging. Not sure why you wouldn't have the camera glued on Schenker when he his ripping. Other than that the film is good. The performance is fairly good but nothing awe inspiring. Schenker stays fairly subdued in his corner of the stage not acting too lively, while the rest of the band is somewhat complacent as well, with the exception of bassist **James "Rev" Jones**. Jones is pretty active but comes off looking a little goofy at times. Not a bad show, but not what I was expecting either. The highlight is seeing Schenker play his leads so fluently and so effortlessly (when the camera man focuses on him).

The audio CD portion of the set is fairly good as well. Again nothing that will shake the earth, but is somewhat enjoyable. The mix isn't the best and it seems that vocalist Chris Logan has some difficulty handling some of the tunes. He is okay, but doesn't deliver the tunes with the fire they deserve. The set is a mixture of UFO and MSG tunes. It is a pretty equal split between the two bands. All in all not a bad package, but not a great one either.



Bottom Line: *A pretty good performance from Michael and Co. MSG fans will eat this up because it is his first official release on DVD, but I think they'll go back to their bootlegs after a few viewings.*

Ragman *feels empty inside.*

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