

**DeeExpus Far From Home Metal
Mind Productions**

Metal Mind take a risk releasing a DVD of DeeExpus's concert during the first edition of the Prog Rock festival at the Wyspianski Katowice in Poland, as this fairly new band from the UK's north east have just one album under their belt and must still be building up their fan base. This was only their third show ever! However, you can see why Metal Minds have done it: the band is on excellent form, the material is strong, modern progressive rock and the live show is both good visually, well filmed and with excellent soundtrack quality - it's a very good DVD! There's nice atmospheric filming at the start, with the visualisation of the instruments on the stage before the band come on, building the "live" atmosphere well. The light show is immediately appealing with variegated shafts of white light from the rafters contrasting effectively with moving images projected onto the stage floor. The theatre is a compact horseshoe shape and looks particularly good when the director cuts to shots filmed from the rigging, looking down. There are many cameras and their direction and editing is well orchestrated: close-ups when there's a need for them and perspective shots to maximise effect. Musically, using a football analogy, the band is currently pushing for a play-off place to progressive rock's premier league. The songs are good and well played but there's a suspicion that they don't yet have the strength in depth of material (not surprising really!) for a show of this duration: there are periods where it feels like rock-by-numbers. There's some super bass sound on the soundtrack and the bassist, Ian Raine, even sports a pretty rainbow beard for the cameras. The DVD contains the usual "extras": there's a documentary called "The Journey Home", documenting the recording of their only album "Half Way Home" (2008); an interview with band leaders Tony Wright (vocals) and Andy Ditchfield (guitars); photo gallery etc etc. If you missed the band's first album and are interested in catching up with DeeExpus, who are definitely worth keeping an eye on, then this DVD may be the thing just for you. **Alex Torres**