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Kasabian: Live At The O2 London 15/12/2011 (Eagle Blu-ray)/Rockwell: A Night Of Legendary Collaborations (2012/Intergroove/MVD DVD)/Stone Temple Pilots – Alive In The Windy City 2010 (Eagle Blu-ray)

Picture: B-/C/B- Sound: B-/C+/B+ Extras: C/D/C
Concerts: C+/C+/B

Now or our latest Rock entries, with some highs and lows...

I have barely heard any of their music and it turns out what I have heard, I do not remember much. However, **Kasabian: Live At The O2 London**

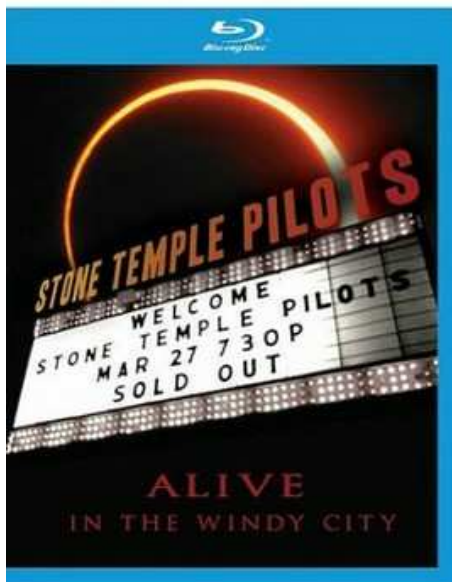
15/12/2011 is the second-ever concert we have covered from that concert venue and the music and performance did not do much for me. We get 19 songs here played with some energy and at least some sincerity, but I was bored and this indie Rock/Electronica lite combo just did not do anything for me. The result is a release for fans only or a sampler disc for those who want to hear the band.

A brief documentary on the band and concert is the only extra.

A little more interesting and somewhat experimental, **Rockwell: A Night Of Legendary Collaborations** (2012) is a mix of old and new acts, along with some new ones we have not heard of before. Robert Plant, Tom Jones and Joss Stone do some solo sets, Stone & Jones duet on It's Your Thing, Razorlight, David Grey and Escala also perform and it is at least an unusual (no pun intended, Mr. Jones) program. Unfortunately, it is too short, the performances are mixed and the show overall never gets off the ground. Still, it is a nice try and something different, so fans might want to check it out for themselves. There are no extras.

Finally we have **Stone Temple Pilots – Alive In The Windy City 2010**, a really impressive concert by the now-underrated band that is one of the few in Rock who have not sold out and I am glad to see Scott Weiland both surviving his personal problems and still being able to sing so well. The band arrived along with Nirvana and Pearl Jam in popularity in Rock Music's last great wave of talent. They still got it.

The band delivers 18 songs including all of their key hits like *Plush*, *Sex Type Thing*, *Interstate Love Song*, *Trippin' On a Hole In A Paper Heart* and *Vaseline*. Here is a real band with raw talent that is actually better with age and can outplay most new bands that have debuted since. I thought this would be good, but it exceeded my expectations and show they are not a mere legacy band. That makes **Alive In The Windy City** one of the best concert Blu-rays of the year.



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IN STORES NOW

- > The Hidden Blade (2004/Palisades Tartan Blu-ray + DVD)
- > Accident (2009/Shout Factory/Media Asia Blu-ray)
- > Life Without Principle (2011/Indomina/Vivendi DVD)
- > Chasing Madoff (2011/Cohen Media/MPI DVD)/Margin Call (2011/Lionsgate DVD)/Too Big To Fail (2012/HBO Blu-ray w/DVD)
- > The Collapsed (2011/Anchor Bay DVD)
- > As Good As It Gets (1997/Sony/TriStar/Twilight Time Limited Edition Blu-ray)
- > MI-5: Volume 10 (2011/BBC DVD Set)
- > The Three Stooges: The Ultimate Collection (1934 - 1959/Sony DVD Box Set)
- > Roy Clarke's Last Of The Summer Wine - Vintage 1991 (BBC DVD)
- > Lord, All Men Can't Be Dogs (2012/One Village/Image Ent. DVD)
- > Aaahh!!! Real Monsters - Season Two/CatDog: Season One - Part Two/CatDog: Season Two - Part One/The Wild Thornberrys - Season 2/Hey Arnold - Season 2: Part 1 (Nickelodeon/Shout! Factory DVD sets)
- > Roadkill (2011/Maneater Series/Vivendi Entertainment DVD)
- > Gossip Girl - Season 4

- (2010 - 2011/Warner Bros. DVD Set)
- > John Carter (2012/Disney Blu-Ray 3D w/Blu-ray 2D + DVD)
- > Alice: The Complete First Season (1976 - 1977/Warner Archive)/Franklin & Bash: The Complete First Season (2011/Sony)/Louie: The Complete Second Season (2011/Fox/all DVD sets)

An interview with the band on the disc and paper pullout are the only extras.



The 1080i 1.78 X 1 digital High Definition image on the two Blu-rays are similar and interesting that they decide to have a darkened room shoot, versus the mostly well-lit live Blu-rays we have seen over the first years of the format. **Pilots** has a very slight edge in picture quality over *Kasabian*, but not by much. The anamorphically enhanced 1.78 X 1 image on Rockwell is softer and more problematic than expected, including more motion blur than I would have liked, plus overall softness that does not help.

The DTS-HD MA (Master Audio) 5.1 lossless mixes on both Blu-rays outdo the PCM 2.0 Stereo versions also included, yet the way **Kasabian** has been remixed for DTS-MA is compressed somewhat and problematic. On the other hand, **Pilots** is one of the most sonically exceptional Blu-ray concerts we have heard to date with exceptional depth, fidelity, range and is an often audiophile-level mix that rivals anything good that can be said of the 5.1 lossless mix on the long out-of-print DVD-Audio edition of the band's **Core**, which is available in reasonably priced editions now.

I was not always happy with those upgrades, though I wonder if the possible Japanese 5.1 Super Audio CD import reissue will sound better. However, this mix can compete with the older audiophile **Core** edition and will challenge any serious home theater system and please any serious fan.

That leaves the PCM 2.0 Stereo on **Rockwell** sounding fairly good, but not great and sometimes harsh at the edges.

- Nicholas Sheffo

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