

## The DVD-Laser Disc Newsletter

### **Sustenance in a desert**

One of the great semi-forgotten bands of the Seventies, spun off from the various projects that Tim Bogart and Carmine Appice were poking around in, Cactus had a unique, hard-rocking blues sound without the frills that heavy metal bands brought to the concept. The quality of the band's music is in strong evidence on the surprisingly lively revival program taken from a 2006 and 2007 tour, **Cactus Live, Loud & Proud**, an MVDvisual release (UPC#760137499596, \$20), featuring Bogart, Appice, Jim McCarty and Jimmy Kunes. Running 97 minutes, the selections from different concerts give the program all of the variety it requires to feel fresh as the still energetic band rocks their way through one number after another. Where some revival shows feel like the musicians are desperately trying to grasp for their youth, this one has the opposite effect, conveying to the viewer why the band members had so much fun in the first place.

The full screen picture (actually, the source has mixed aspect ratios) is a little grainy or overlit at times, but workable. The sound is a simple stereo, but delivers a viable dimensionality and clear tones. There is no captioning. Also featured is a 9-minute clip of the band jamming with Warren Haynes, Pat Travers and Joe Bonamassa, a 5-minute music video with girls in bikinis, 19 minutes of interviews with the band members, and 4 minutes of clips of heavy metal musicians singing the band's praises.