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01 04 2011

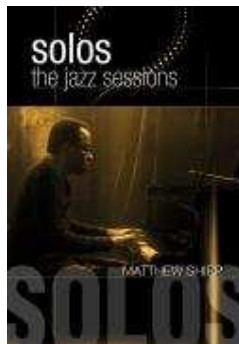
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**DVD: Matthew Shipp: The Jazz Sessions**

Written by Kevin Stanley

29 03 2011



Hello once again, here we are on yet another step of the journey into the world of jazz, as I continue to review some of the releases from the 39 part Solos: The Jazz Sessions music profiles series. Each instalment in 50 minutes long and gives viewers a chance to get up close and personal with the performer. Among the numerous guitarists this time we have something a little different in the form of pianist Matthew Shipp.

As you might well know by now, if you've been watching these releases, or just reading these reviews, each episode features complete musical pieces, insightful interviews and behind-the-scenes footage. Designed and recorded for the viewer at home, Solos offers a front row seat for an intimate and unique jazz experience. Shot in stunning HDTV with multiple moving cameras and a medley of elegant, cinematic lighting designs, Solos: the jazz sessions showcases an exciting and dynamic variety of jazz styles - from the blues and boogie-woogie to bebop and beyond.

Of his own relationship with music and his piano Matthew Shipp says that he has no influences and that he existed together with God and the piano before time began. It's easy to see why he thinks this - his playing is both technically flawless (from what I can tell at least) and it is also beautiful.

Shipp says that his piano playing is the direct result of the fact that his mind and the cosmic mind, that sustains the universe, are in harmony. And I for one believe it. So in tune is he with his instrument that I wouldn't disagree that he has some cosmic influence guiding him. His abilities are very impressive. Shipp says that when he plays that he can intercept electromagnetic frequencies directly from the mind of God and can convert them into lyrical phrases on the piano. To some it may sound like he is a braggart, yet listen to him play and you might change your mind. Shipp is either simply amazingly gifted or his power is in some way divine. I'll let you make up your own mind but either way his music is quite magical.

Much like the other DVDs that I've reviewed in this series the action is completely focussed on the performer and their performance. Once you've watched it through once it will certainly still make for good background music.

Tracks: Knots, Greensleeves, Symbol Systems, Before The World, From By The Law, New Orbit

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