



Joe Louis Walker – Live In Istanbul

Wienerworld / MVD Visual MVD7505D

When asked what kind of audience he had in Turkey, Joe Louis Walker said “There’s mostly two kinds: the kind of which the music hits them in the head, or the kind where the music hits them in the heart. I can honestly say of the audience that night, the music hit them in both”. And, I can honestly say that it will have the same impact on you!

Recorded in Istanbul in 1995, Walker is at the peak of his powers, opening with the intensely brooding modern blues ‘Can’t Get You Out Of My Mind’ where his vocals and guitar hit top gear from the off – the passion, creativity and sheer talent shining through on every track right through to the closing ‘Hidden Feelings’.

In between we are treated to Walker’s awesome slide on the grinding ‘Rain In my Mind’, whilst ‘Bluesifyin’ is a deep blues slide extravaganza of the highest order that melds the influences of Elmore James and HoundDog Taylor. Walker’s funky side comes to the fore on the shuffle ‘You Got To Lose’, fuelled by Mike Everley’s eerie Hammond, and ‘Street People’ – whilst ‘Lost Heart’ and ‘I Didn’t Know’ explore Walker’s gospel roots.

Walker is the consummate live performer as this set unquestionably testifies to. +(www.mvdvisual.com)

- Mick Rainsford