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Pendragon – Past and Presence DVD**2007 Metal Mind Productions/MVD Visual**

It's hard to believe (no pun intended) that **Pendragon** has been around for decades and that they have released, what, fourteen records in their career, something like that. Their release from 2005 *Believe* was a record that really showed what the band could do beyond the typical neo-progressive rock ear candy, stretching the musical boundaries that lined themselves up with not only colleagues such as IQ or Jadis, but with the more diverse sounds of Kino & Enchant; this comes especially after hearing their anthology *The History: 1984-2000*, which is filled with more straightforward Marillion-esque melodic progressive rock.

Before we go any further, it is fitting to mention that this is another band that Arena keyboardist Clive Nolan participates in amongst a long list of others, including supergroup **Neo**. These guys aren't a stranger to Poland, they played to an enthusiastic crowd at the renown and majestic Teatr Slaski, and now *Past & Presence* can bring their live performance to all of us. They play all the neo-progressive favorites such as "The Pleasure of Hope," "Victims of Life," the ethereal "Alaska," "The Black Knight," and the eerily sophisticated "Armageddon."

The video, just like the **Neo** release, has the film warmth to it, as well as multiple cameras being used with cranes & tracks. The sound is also discrete, with Threshold's Karl Groom having his hand in the stereo mix (there is also a 5.1 mix). There is an interview with guitarist/vocalist Nick Barrett & original keyboardist John Barnfield (who also joins the band onstage), other bonus features include behind the scenes footage which is very rough, but it's there for us to see all the antics; there is also a detailed history and a discography section.

Besides Nolan, Barrett, Peter Gee, and Joe Crabtree; we also see Rick Carter, a keyboardist from the earlier days as well as multi-instrumentalist Julian Backer, which makes for an overall big performance. Most of the material on *Past and Presence* is in the vein of the 'neo' or 'second wave' material that they are known for, so for the curious, this DVD is a great place to start; and for the fans, it's mandatory.

[CLICK HERE](#) To Read a Review of Neo's 'Broadcast' DVD.

Added: May 15th 2007

Reviewer: Tommy Hash

Score: ★★★★★

Related Link: [The Official Pendragon Website](#)

Hits: 42

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