



Echo and the Bunnymen

Dancing Horses

(MVD Visual)

The "Dancing Horses" DVD captures the Bunnymen circa 2005 in all their gloom and glory at Shepherd's Bush Empire. The tour was in support of their then new "Siberia" album, but the setlist is mostly made up of songs from their 1980-1987 run of brilliant albums. The DVD is well-shot, but the performances are pretty much what you would expect from a band that has only two original members who were in their prime more than two decades ago. Lead singer Ian McCullough still exudes the same detached cool that made him a great frontman in the 1980's, but thanks to the ravages of time and nicotine he can no longer hit the same notes that he once nailed effortlessly. The group sounds good, but you can't help but wonder why they've swelled from four members to six. Diehard fans will jump at the chance to hear the Bunnymen run through great songs like "The Cutter", "Kiling Moon" and "Villiers Terrace" one more time, but others will wonder if there's any live footage from their prime that could have been released instead.

- David Mansdorf