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Echo & the Bunnymen: Dancing Horses

Written by Royce Epstein

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Description

Video Review Info

Video Title: Echo & the Bunnymen: Dancing Horses

Video Type: DVD

Video Style: Documentary



Recorded live at Shepherds Bush Empire in 2005, post-punk Liverpoolians perform a 20-song concert in support of their at-the-time release of "Siberia."

New material from "Siberia" is scarce, though (they only play four songs), which is great for long-time fans because they have an extensive catalog of standard favorites to perform, which they do in tall order. A new band now backs original members Ian McCulloch ("Mac") and Will Sergeant, and while you will miss Les Pattinson on bass, the new lads do just fine behind Will's signature stormy guitar work. Most Echo albums are covered here, including their substantial early work with songs "Going Up," "Villiers Terrace," "Rescue," "With a Hip," "Show of Strength," "Back of Love," "The Cutter," "Killing Moon," "Never Stop" and "Bring on the Dancing Horses." For the encore, the Bunnymen perform "Lips Like Sugar" and "Ocean Rain," which is a gorgeous song and an excellent way to bring the crowd down from their earlier fervor. It is always hard to compare an iconic band to their earlier performances and recordings, and typically bands that have been together for many years are just naturally polished. Even with this "new" band and moments of rough vocals for Mac (who smokes like a chimney, even throughout the concert), The Bunnymen prove to be an enduring favorite who still maintain their legendary post-punk status. Although they are no longer cutting edge, their former moments of the stunning and the sublime are still present in spades in this performance. For serious fans only, there are interviews with Mac and Will, and they are a treat, with discussion ranging from the new album to early history. However, Mac is hard to understand with his muddled accent at times, so

you'll have to turn the volume up. When you turn the volume up, you will hear someone practicing drums in the background. This is unfortunate and should have been adjusted so we can hear Mac better. Also, Mac and Will are interviewed separately and so it isn't as interesting as if they were having a discussion together in the same room. Those, however, are the only two caveats and overall this disc is a must for Echo fans old and new.

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