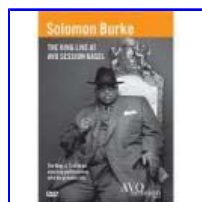


- [Home](#)
- [About](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Subscribe](#)
- [AAAMC Home](#)

[The King Live at Avo Session Basel](#)

February 7th, 2008



Title: [The King Live at Avo Session Basel](#)

Artist: Solomon Burke

Label: [MVD Visual](#)

Catalog No.: MVDV4608

Date: 2007

[Solomon Burke](#) seems to have built a forty-year career on *almost* getting the attention he deserves. His fame with Atlantic in the 1960s was overshadowed by the phenomenal pop success of Otis Redding and Aretha Franklin. While he has steadily recorded albums throughout the 1970s, 80s, and 90s, it wasn't until 2002's *Don't Give Up On Me*, which included songs written by devoted fans Tom Waits, Brian Wilson, Elvis Costello and others, that Burke's name garnered much attention.

Burke's new concert film *The King Live at AVO SESSION Basel* offers a glimpse of the power of Burke, and a spirited testament to his passion that fuels that power, but also reminds us that somehow this larger than life man sometimes gets overlooked. Filmed for European television in the Swiss city of Basel, the concert sets a PBS-type tone with its polite crowd of middle-aged concert-goers seated cabaret style in a large theatre lit for television. Except for organ player Rudy Copeland, the band assembled is unremarkable. Dressed in tuxedos, they remind the viewer of a suburban wedding before the dancing has started. Their opening instrumental, "Back At the Chicken Shack," fails to arouse any sense of excitement in the crowd or via television. It isn't until midway through another extended instrumental riff, called "the greeting song," that we hear Burke, offstage, announce his presence. Yet, as he begs the audience, "Are you ready?" he is met with no visible excitement. Nothing so far has seemed to indicate that Burke still has it.

When Burke does arrive onstage, cloaked in a red velvet cape, sporting a black fedora, sunglasses, his son helping his 500 pound frame onstage, the energy is still forced. These days Burke only performs sitting down in a majestic gold chair center stage, book-ended with vases containing dozens of long stem red roses. His first song from his thrown, "Down In The Valley," is lackluster and still feels forced, although it is obvious soon enough that though he may not rock like he used to, his voice has lost nothing over the years. In fact, it has gained not only weight and depth, but commitment and even, if it is possible, more power.

When he launches into "Diamond In Your Mind," the Tom Waits tune from *Don't Give Up On Me*, we start to see glimpses of the power within. His deep baritone dominates the sound of each song and for the next hour he burns though old and new, including medleys by his more recognizable cohorts, including one Otis/Aretha/Ben E. King set of "Dock of the Bay/Fa Fa Fa/ Spanish Harlem/ Stand By Me." Still the crowd is more preoccupied with the roses he's tossing out than with the music. Burke doesn't seem to mind, always looking like a King who's enjoying his own party. Burke is equally comfortable with the songs he's recorded in the past few years as he is with Marvin Gaye covers, and his own hits "Cry To Me" and "Proud Mary" show the commitment Burke has to the music, whether or not anyone is paying attention.

The 75 minute concert concludes in a prolonged version of Burke's best known song "Everybody Needs Somebody To Love," made famous by the Rolling Stones and given a third life by *The Blues Brothers* film. After much prodding Burke gets the audience on-stage, surrounding himself with dancers and singers, and at one point gives the mic to an audience member as Burke moves among those dancing, eventually disappearing behind his fans, his band, and his music.

The DVD extras offer no insight to the music, musician, or concert but consist entirely of tourist information about the city of Basel and promotional material for the AVO SESSION series. Those who wish to know more about the man described as "one of the greatest living exponents of classic soul" will have to wait for the new DVD *Everybody Needs Somebody*. Scheduled for a U.S. release next month, the documentary promises to provide "the definitive fully-authorized story of Solomon Burke."

Posted by Thomas Richardson

Review Genre(s): [African American Culture & History](#), [Rhythm & Blues](#), [Soul](#), [Funk](#)

[Trackback this post](#)

Calendar

February 2008

M T W T F S S

1 2 3

4 5 6 [7](#) 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15 16 17

18 19 20 21 22 23 24

25 26 27 28 29

[« Jan](#)

Most Recent Posts

- [Welcome to the February Issue](#)
- [Black History Month](#)
- [On the Right Road Now](#)
- [Welcome to the City](#)
- [When Rhythm Was King](#)
- [Billy Taylor & Gerry Mulligan Live at MCG](#)
- [Roots & Grooves](#)
- [Junior Wells: Live at Nightstage](#)
- [Ramblin' on My Mind](#)
- [Stereo Spirit](#)
- [More Beautiful Ballads](#)
- [Welcome to the January Issue](#)
- [CD Box Sets](#)
- [Previously Unreleased CDs](#)
- [Notable Reissues](#)
- [DVDs](#)
- [Classical](#)
- [Top Ten Gospel Releases in 2007](#)
- [Hip Hop](#)
- [Jazz](#)
- [Funk/Rock](#)
- [R&B](#)
- [World Music](#)
- [Welcome to the December Issue](#)
- [Gospel at Christmastime](#)
- [Honeydripper](#)
- [The Story of Oscar Brown, Jr.](#)
- [Chasin' Gus' Ghost](#)
- [Gettin' Up](#)
- [Tribute to Ella Jenkins](#)
- [Art of Love and War](#)
- [Songs About Girls](#)
- [Messin' Around Blues](#)
- [Afro Strut](#)
- [Born in the Bronx](#)
- [Welcome to the November Issue](#)
- [Live at Monterey](#)
- [Art of Field Recording](#)
- [Funk This](#)
- [Wattstax '72: Music from the Festival and Film](#)
- [Eardrum](#)
- [Finding Forever](#)
- [Love, Luther](#)
- [Get Ready](#)
- [I Predict a Riot](#)
- [Virgo Blaktro & the Movie Disco](#)
- [Every Voice and Sing!](#)
- [Welcome to the October Issue](#)
- [Respect Yourself: The Stax Records Story](#)
- [Never Forget: A Journey of Revelations](#)
- [Scene of the Crime](#)
- [Singing for Life](#)
- [The Paris Concert](#)
- [Another Dance](#)

- [Keep Reachin' Up](#)
- [Ethiogroove](#)
- [Good Girl Blues](#)
- [Supermoon](#)
- [Pavarotti Crosses Over](#)
- [Welcome to the September Issue](#)
- [etudes4violin&electronix](#)
- [The Daily News](#)
- [Hip Hop Colony \(DVD\)](#)
- [Jamesie: King of Scratch](#)
- [Summer Records Anthology, 1974-1998](#)
- [Holla: The Best of Trin-I-Tee 5:7](#)
- [Dynamite](#)
- [I'm Not Playin'](#)
- [Build a Nation](#)
- [All Directions Forward](#)
- [Mental Afro](#)
- [Welcome to the July/August Issue](#)
- [Music of the Old South](#)
- [Gospel Discography 1943-1970](#)
- [30 Year Legacy of Tyscot Records](#)
- [Afro Samurai](#)
- [Blues de Musicien](#)
- [Betty Davis/They Say I'm Different](#)
- [Third Coast](#)
- [Hip Hop Lives](#)
- [Howard Tate Live](#)
- [Kidney Stew is Fine](#)
- [Drumline Riddim' Timeline Riddim'](#)
- [Welcome to the June 1st Anniversary Issue](#)
- [On My Journey](#)
- [Paul Robeson: Portraits of the Artist \(DVD\)](#)
- [Lost Sounds](#)
- [King Sunny Ade](#)
- [Just Like a Woman](#)
- [Now & Forever](#)
- [24 Negro Melodies](#)
- [Old School](#)
- [Stone Cold Ohio](#)
- [Nashville](#)
- [Father Guide Me](#)
- [Welcome to the May Issue](#)
- [Gospel According to Patti LaBelle](#)
- [In the Spirit](#)
- [Full Circle](#)
- [Undisputed Truth](#)
- [Weatherman LP](#)
- [I'll Sleep When You're Dead](#)
- [The Phenomenal Ruthie Foster](#)
- [Release Therapy](#)
- [King](#)
- [Loose Grooves: Funkin' Live in England 1980](#)
- [Sly & The Family Stone 40th Anniversary](#)
- [Welcome to the April Issue](#)
- [Hip Hop is Dead](#)
- [Mind Control](#)
- [Afro-Punk](#)
- [Wisemen Approaching](#)
- [bees + things + flowers](#)
- [Smokey Robinson and the Miracles](#)
- [German Lugers](#)
- [RS2](#)
- [Roots Daughters](#)
- [JazzFunkHipHoPoetry](#)
- [Southern Comfort](#)
- [Welcome to the March Issue](#)
- [From The Plantation to The Penitentiary](#)
- [Renaissance Child](#)

- [Live at Theresa's, 1975](#)
- [After the Rain](#)
- [Best of Scram Records](#)
- [As the Tables Turn](#)
- [First Annual Gong DJ Battle for World Supremacy](#)
- [Soulfood](#)
- [Funky Funky New York](#)
- [It Can Happen to Anyone](#)
- [Colorblind](#)
- [Welcome to the February Issue](#)
- [What We Want, What We Believe: Black Panther Party](#)
- [Risin' with the Blues](#)
- [Reflections: the Definitive Performances, 1964-1969](#)
- [Marvin Gaye: The Real Thing In Performance, 1964-1981](#)
- [More Fish](#)
- [Beautiful Ballads](#)
- [Live at CBGB 1982](#)
- [Closet Freak: the Best of Cee-Lo Green](#)
- [Dells, Pearls and Velours](#)
- [Full Circle](#)
- [Mr. Wonderful Productions](#)
- [Welcome to the January Issue](#)
- [Remembering James Brown](#)
- [James Brown: the Federal Years, 1956-1960](#)
- [Specialty Profiles: Mayfield and Williams](#)
- [Testimony: Vol. 1, Life & Relationship](#)
- [Por Por: Honk Horn Music of Ghana](#)
- [Food & Liquor](#)
- [For Lovers, Dreamers, & Me](#)
- [Bold and Beautiful](#)
- [The Messenger: Live at the Original Velvet Lounge](#)
- [Atlantic Unearthed: Soul Sisters](#)
- [Is It Because I'm Black, '69-'71](#)
- [Eccentric Soul: The Big Mack Label](#)
- [Welcome to the December issue](#)
- [Hurricane Katrina Benefit CDs](#)
- [The Twelve Classic Gospel Songs of Christmas](#)
- [Tyscot Celebrates 30th Anniversary](#)
- [Return](#)
- [Lucinda Moore](#)
- [Still...Keepin' It Real](#)
- [Soulful Healing](#)
- [I've Got A Right](#)
- [Victory LIVE!](#)
- [Root to the Fruit](#)
- [Surrounded](#)
- [Good God! A Gospel Funk Hymnal](#)
- [The Essential Yolanda Adams](#)
- [Welcome to the November issue of Black Grooves](#)
- [Black Rock Coalition 20th Anniversary](#)
- [Other True Self](#)
- [More Than Posthuman](#)
- [A Swig from the Acid Bottle](#)
- [On the Jungle Floor](#)
- [Both Sides of the Gun](#)
- [Game Theory](#)
- [Goin' to Town](#)
- [Born and Raised in Compton](#)
- [That Ain't Right](#)
- [Swing Along: The Songs of Will Marion Cook](#)
- [The World of Nat King Cole](#)
- [The Complete 1957 Riverside Recordings](#)
- [Child of the Seventies](#)
- [Welcome to the October issue](#)
- [High Tech Soul: The Creation of Techno Music](#)
- [Put the Needle on the Record](#)
- [Women on Wax](#)
- [Interstellar Fugitives: Destruction of Order](#)

- [Northern Souljers Meet Hi-Rhythm](#)
- [The Complete Motown Singles; Vol. 5: 1965](#)
- [The Shining](#)
- [Love Music... Falling In, Falling Out](#)
- [I'll Be Seeing You: A Sentimental Journey](#)
- [Blue](#)
- [There's Not a friend: Live in Little Rock](#)
- [Josephine Baker: A Centenary Tribute](#)
- [Dona Got a Ramblin' Mind](#)
- [Classic African-American Ballads](#)
- [Welcome To The September Issue](#)
- [Blue Collar](#)
- [Cash on Delivery](#)
- [Late Orchestration](#)
- [Legend of the Wu-Tang: the Videos](#)
- [Paul Freeman Introduces David N. Baker](#)
- [One More Day](#)
- [The Watts Prophets](#)
- [Good Bread Alley](#)
- [Texas Gospel Volume 1: Come On Over Here](#)
- [Eddie Murphy: Comedian](#)
- [Funky Funky New Orleans 5](#)
- [Gwen McCrae Sings TK](#)
- [Welcome to the July/August Issue](#)
- [Disco: Spinning the Story](#)
- [Maestro](#)
- [Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson: A Celebration](#)
- [Tuff City Music Group](#)
- [Ray Charles: Unreleased](#)
- [Best of YZ](#)
- [The Green Arrows](#)
- [Hallelujah Chicken Run Band](#)
- [Lost Soul Man](#)
- [Illumination](#)
- [Essential O'Jays](#)
- [Back Up Train](#)
- [Robbery](#)
- [AAAMC Launches Black Grooves](#)
- [Slum Village](#)
- [New Born](#)
- [Timeless: Live at the Velvet Lounge](#)
- [Blues Brunch at the Mart](#)
- [Broadcasting the Blues](#)
- [Eccentric Soul: The Deep City Label](#)
- [Mary Lou's Mass](#)
- [Boogie Uproar: Texas Blues and R&B 1947-1957](#)
- [Progressions: 100 Years of Jazz Guitar](#)
- [Old Time Southern Black String Band Music](#)
- [Nina Simone](#)
- [Subscribe](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [About](#)

© Copyright 2008 blackgrooves.org. All rights reserved.

[Blix Theme](#) by Sebastian Schmieg. Icons by [Kevin Potts](#) . Powered by [WordPress](#) . [Login](#)