



Snoop Dogg: Drop It Like It's Hot

Though no one who remembers his emergence in the early '90s -- with the possible exceptions of himself and Dr. Dre -- would have thought it at the time, Snoop Dogg has become not just a superstar (anyone could've seen that), not just a major hip-hop icon (ditto), not just a survivor (some people are just lucky that way), but a legitimate entertainment institution. Just about anything you can say about Snoop -- he's lovable, he's a criminal, he's funny, he's pathetic, he's great, he's over, he's a pimp, he's a ho -- has been said, again and again, by thousands and even millions of people, yet he endures. One thing you don't hear a lot of people say is that Snoop is a super-engaging live performer. That's sure to change with the release of this DVD, which captures a 2005 appearance in Brussels (just a stone's throw from Amsterdam, really), and a couple of bonus tracks from Jamaica in 2001.

Running through the set list, which is basically nothing but gems, including "Murder Was the Case," "Tha Shaznit," "Deep Cover: 'G' Thang," "Snoop's Upside Ya Head," "Lodi Dodi," "Gin and Juice" and the title megahit, plus a guest appearance by the Game on "Lay Low," the star works hard to make what he does look easy. He strolls the stage, matching his laconic verbal delivery (amped up a couple notches for the live audience, but still recognizably chill) with a rambling physical ease. He looks like what he is: The Dean Martin of rap.