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REVIEW

Music DVD Review: Marillion - *Somewhere In London*

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It's hard to keep up with a band who releases as prolific amount of material as Marillion does. They have managed to put out something new every year since their 1983 debut, *Script for a Jester's Tear*, whether it be a new studio album, a new live album, a new compilation album, a new concert DVD, or one of their many fan club releases.

I last checked in on the Marillion camp when I reviewed their excellent 2005 concert DVD, *Marbles On The Road*, and I figured I was past due to check in on them again. I have not had a chance to pick up their latest album, last year's *Somewhere Else*, yet, but this new concert DVD covers every song from that album in one form or another.

Somewhere In London was filmed over the final two nights of Marillion's *Somewhere Else* tour at The Forum, Kentish Town, London, on the 15th and 16th of June 2007. The band performed 22 different songs between the two shows, and every single one of them was included on this teeming two-disk set. Disk one includes the feature-length concert film, and disk two contains seven other songs that were also performed during the two shows, along with some other great special features.

The show kicks off in dramatic fashion as the darkened stage is awakened by some dimly pulsating spotlights, and the intro music to "Splintering Heart" ignites the crowd. Steve Hogarth casually walks out to a barely illuminated stage and begins to pour his heart out over the song's first couple of verses, as he is bathed in an ominous red hue from below. Right after he screams the line "...but not as much as this!," the light show explodes into a dazzling display of lights and colors and Steve Rothery follows with one of the best guitar solos in his repertoire. What an opener.

From there, the band showcases seven songs from the new *Somewhere Else* album, with only a couple of *Marbles* tracks mixed in between. What you think of the *Somewhere Else* album is what will mostly determine whether you find this to be the best Marillion DVD ever, or simply just a very, very good one.

The setlist draws from most of the band's albums of the last two decades, and also includes a couple of very nice surprises. "The Release," which was a bonus track on the 1999 remastered version of *Seasons End*, was dusted off for this tour and served as one of the encore numbers at the first London show. The absolute showstopper, however had to be the band's 16-minute, epic performance of "Ocean Cloud," which they played on the second night. If you like the more progressive side of Marillion, then you are really going to love this one. The song can only otherwise be found on the two-disc, limited edition, version of *Marbles*, which means that I now have to get that too.

Other highlights for me were the first set closer, "King," which slowly builds up from heart-wrenching ballad to an intense climax. Steve Hogarth is one of the most animated and emotionally invested frontmen in the business, and he was no better than on this performance. Yes, Rothery is the next best thing to David Gilmour, and Trewavas is a monster on the bass guitar, but Hogarth is what really makes this band special.

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