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 DVD REVIEW

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Marillion  
"Somewhere In London"  
(MVD Visual)

This isn't the first time I've discovered a career for the first time by watching a live performance later in the artist's career. As I think I've said before, it says a whole lot about a performer or band if they can impress me on introduction via a live performance. I believe the live set is a make-or-break scenario for many acts. Lots of bands can cut it in the studio but can't seem to keep the quality high on stage. Not so with Marillion.

I did a little research after checking out this performance from 2007's *Somewhere Else Tour*. Turns out these guys first got together (with a mostly different line-up) back in 1979. Also turns out the band has evolved its sound from album to album. I suppose that what I have witnessed here spans a range of time in the band's life. The chance to sample various portions of a group's career through a live set list is one of the good things about encountering a band for the first time on stage. If, of course, the band is a good live act. And Marillion most certainly is. Passionate elements of rock

unite in this performance. From the prog-tinged sweet song of the guitars to the energetic, feisty but not off-puttingly aggressive vibe of the front man, Marillion acquits itself beautifully in a stage setting. Every facet of this tight-knit act glimmers, but for me it is those two things that stand out the most. The guitar solos are technically accomplished but flow like water — gorgeous enough to leave one smitten. And the front man's performance is singular.

Visually, he looks as though he could be playing in a heavy band — there's that much passion. But what greets one's ears are lush, melodic rock vocals. I hear many influences in Marillion — from prog rock to new wave — a testament, no doubt, to the group's never-ending evolution. And while Marillion — if you didn't know who they were going into this, as I did not — shows obvious influences of classic rock (since, as I later discovered, they ARE), nonetheless, the band's sound is timeless. (The second disc of this double-DVD venture boasts prior live songs as well as rehearsals and "Somewhere Else 5.1 Mixes.")

— Kristofer Upjohn