

Somewhere In London Marillion



The one thing you can say about Marillion is that they give you value for your money. Look no further than their DVD **Somewhere In London**, which comprises two discs of 31 songs, mostly pulled from a concert filmed at the Forum in London in 2007. These shows were played in front of a rabid vocal crowd of Marillion fans. The five-piece progressive rockers come across with nary a hitch.

While I don't truly understand why the first two sections of the discs are set up under separate titles when the performances are basically taken from two dates, we do get an 11-song section on the first disc called *The Somewhere Else Tour 2007*. This features what seems to be the bulk of the concert, focusing on a good amount of newer material, or at least from the album the band had out at the time, "Somewhere Else," and the stellar playing you'd expect from a band like Marillion. I was a huge fan of this band when Fish was their lead singer/front man, but haven't followed them too closely since Fish left. Nevertheless, the band has gone on to release 10 albums (at the time of these shows) with vocalist Steve Hogarth. So most of this material was new to me, and I really liked the bulk of it.

An engaging frontman with a voice similar to that of Chris de Burgh (not a bad vocalist to be compared to, as far as I'm concerned), Hogarth leads the band, gets the crowd clapping, plays keys and "speechaphizes" a bit, but generally sings with clear passion. With perfectly edited camera angles, swoops and close-ups, we get some excellent views and vistas of the playing (hats off to director/editor Tim Sidwell) as Marillion cuts through songs like "The Other Half" (complete with a nice Pete Trewavas/Mark Kelly bass/piano interlude), the vocally impressive "Thank You Whoever You Are" and "Fantastic Place" (this one might be my favorite of this disc), Ian Mosley's great drumming on "The Wound," and Steve Rothery's exemplary guitar playing throughout, in every song, from electric to acoustic, for every moment of this show (did I mention how great Steve Rothery is?). I love every song here — from the well-known numbers (at least the ones I knew) to songs like the beautiful "Faith."

Tickled as I knew I'd be by any the old stuff on the second disc, *Here's Some We Played Earlier*, the band plays some Fish-era material including a blistering rendition of "Sugar Mice" from the *Clutching At Straws* album. Hogarth shows some uncharacteristic (uncharacteristic for any lead singer really) humility as he simply lets the crowd sing the first half of the song, even leaving the stage at one point. "Most Toys" features the crowd chanting the first verse while Rothery switches guitars (he had put on the wrong one and joined the crowd for a nice moment of good-natured ribbing) and ends the seven-song set with the ever popular "Easter" from **Season's End**, Marillion's first post-Fish release, which gets the crowd singing and swaying even more.

A featurette on the second disc focuses on a tour rehearsal at Marillion's Racket Club and includes another five songs, "The Last Century for Man," "Estonia," the blistering "Neverland," "Faith" and "See It Like A Baby." This is basically Marillion rehearsing, with a bunch of fans sitting on the floor watching. This is worth the price of admission really. Even in rehearsal, Rothery is amazing, especially on "Neverland." And you have to love Peter Trewavas's simple, yet effective acoustic guitar playing on "Faith." If you're a Marillion fan, **Somewhere In**

London will thrill you; for an older fan like me, these two discs are an eye and ear opener; and for someone new to the experience of what this band is all about, this set is a great introduction. Run, do not walk, to get your hot little hands on **Somewhere In London**.

~ Ralph Greco, Jr.

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