

DVD REVIEWS



DVD Review: Talib Kweli
Live At The Shrine
Fortress/MVD

As one of the most lyrically skilled and critically acclaimed MC's of this era, Talib Kweli represents the best qualities of a true master of ceremonies, with verbal dexterity and crowd control in equal measure. With due respect to the Masters who laid the foundations of Hip Hop, Kweli merges a soul searching introspective beauty with fierce East Coast Boom Bap and gritty, cinematic lyrics. In this, his first live concert DVD, Kweli sweats out a near perfect set to a West Coast audience who seem only moderately impressed.

Despite gripping performances of classics like "Say Something", "Get Em High" and "Get By", as well as stellar appearances by Res on "Too Late" and Strong Arm Steady on "One Step", and even a crazy back and forth freestyle with the Blastmaster KRS-ONE, the crowd remains stone faced and immobile for most of the set, except for the few dedicated fans shouting out every word. Combine this with poor lighting and a massive venue, and one can't help but wonder why Kweli's first live DVD wasn't filmed in Brooklyn.

Extras include interviews with Kweli and KRS, uncut full rehearsal footage and behind the scenes. The interviews are mostly the two MC's bigging each other up and the rehearsal rather lackluster. Perhaps Talib Kweli should exercise the same quality control on his video output as he does with his lyrics.

TalibKweli.com

fortressdvd.com

By Dave "Corvid" McCallum



DVD Review -Young People Fucking
Directed by Martin Gero
Maple Pictures

Despite the controversial title, and admittedly steamy subject matter, "Young People Fucking" offers less on screen flesh than most Hollywood drama, and the real focus here (like in a lot of good sex) is on the conversations between the five couples (well, four couples and one threesome...) whose unconnected stories weave back and forth in tandem towards the group climax (Jesus...).

What results is some entertaining, not too profound banter that pokes holes in myriad aspects of modern sexual relations, from the couple whose sex life is agonizingly awkward to the one night stand trying to be all sincere. Writer/producer Aaron Abrams casts himself in the ballsy role of the longtime platonic friend trying to get it on with his oh so hot (but all too familiar) chum, and the extreme lengths of on screen humiliation that he puts himself through make for some of the most gut-busting moments in the film.

Of course, given the range of couples and their preferences, it could pretty much be called "Straight People Fucking" or even "White People Fucking", but hey, with an official bull from Pope Stephen Harper himself prohibiting all Conservative Party affiliates from attending screenings, "Young People Fucking" gets the official Abort seal of approval as representing for the good of Canadian culture worldwide, reminding everyone that we are just as down lowdown and dirty as everyone else.

The voiceover commentary by Abrams and Gero provides a window into their twisted parallel world where one often finishes the other's thoughts, obviously this is a writing team to watch for with future gems surely forthcoming.

I just want to know why the French title isn't blocked out by a condom, "Jeunes Adultes Qui Baisent"? - in Quebec I bet they'll call it "Young Anglos Fucking"!

ypfthemovie.com

maplepictures.com

By Dave "Corvid" McCallum