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Chic – Live At The Budokan (1996/Charly/MVD Visual DVD)

Picture: C Sound: C+
Extras: C+ Concert: B

Of the many acts of the Disco era that came and went, Chic was one of the few that not only managed to be more than a one-hit wonder, but created music that continues to influence and endure today.

Still written off by so many so-called music experts as a minor act, the duo of Bernard Edwards and Nile Rodgers behind the group became one of the most successful in music history and their songs are some of the most sampled of all time, down to their megahit *Good Times* being one of the square roots of all of Rap/Hip Hop. **Chic – Live At The Budokan** (1996) is their last concert together before Edwards' premature death.

A fine show, better than you might imagine, the songs include:

- 1) *Do That Dance*
- 2) *He's The Greatest Dancer*
- 3) *We Are Family*
- 4) *Dance, Dance, Dance*
- 5) *I Want Your Love*
- 6) *Good Times*
- 7) *Le Freak*
- 8) *Slash guitar solo*
- 9) *Chic Cheer*
- 10) *Just One World*

Besides former Guns 'n' Roses guitarist Slash joining them, Sister Sledge (now down to three members) join the group for their big hits (tracks 2 & 3) and both guests are in top form, but then so is Chic, though original drummer Tony Thompson is sadly not here and would himself pass away in 2003. This was a concert 20 years after the band had formed. They had even made some new albums around this time, but Discophobia stopped all but the Dance clubs and DJ circles to pick the materials up, though they perform so many of their classics here. Running about 70 minutes, it is short but loaded with great music and is a historic final note in the history of one of most underrated bands of all time.

The 1.33 X 1 image is a little softer than a 1996 taping should be, looking a generation or so down, while the Dolby Digital 5.1 mix may be better, but is far from the fidelity their best records are known for, though I wonder if it is also the victim of source materials not being first-generation. Extras include optional intro clips to each song by Rodgers, a color booklet with illustrations and notes inside the DVD case, two text tributes to Edwards and text bio/discography sections on the DVD itself.



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