



Shawn Mullins: Live At The Playhouse DVD Review

Shawn Mullins: Live At The Playhouse Movie Credits:



[ralpheichenlaub](#)'s score:



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Shawn Mullins: Live At The Playhouse Directed by:

▪

Shawn Mullins: Live At The Playhouse Written by:

▪

Shawn Mullins: Live At The Playhouse Cast:

▪

Shawn Mullins: Live At The Playhouse U.S. Distributor:

▪ Not set

Shawn Mullins: Live At The Playhouse U.K. Distributor:

- Not set

Shawn Mullins: Live At The Playhouse Region:

- 1

Shawn Mullins: Live At The Playhouse Release Date:

- 28th Oct 2008

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Shawn Mullins: Live At The Playhouse Synopsis:

Shawn Mullins is a singer-songwriter who specializes in folk and alternative rock. His most well received single was “Lullaby” which earned him a Grammy nomination in 1998. Since 1991 he’s released 12 albums. The concert presented on this DVD was recorded live at the Variety Playhouse. The concert is divided, somewhat, into two separate mini-concerts. The first 6 songs feature Mullins performing solo and the final 9 tracks are Mullins performing with his band. The track list for this concert is as follows:

1. Twin Rocks, Oregon
2. Home
3. For America
4. Fraction of a Man
5. Ballad of Billy Jo McKay
6. Lonesome, I Know You Too Well
7. Shimmer
8. Anchored In You
9. Beautiful Wreck
10. Cold Black Heart
11. Cabbagetown
12. The Ballad of Kathryn Johnston
13. House of the Rising Sun
14. Lullaby
15. All In My Head

Shawn Mullins: Live At The Playhouse Review:

The concert is not only divided by solo songs vs. songs with the band, but also thematically. Mullins songs are particularly thought-provoking and passionate, however, you get a feeling that there is more of Mullins heart put into his solo works. He goes into a little bit more detail when introducing his solo works and the sound is also a bit different. His sound drifts into the folk singer-songwriter route in the vein of such artists as Kris Kristofferson and James Taylor and each of his songs contains a story. One notable song is “For America” which Mullins introduces as “a song not meant to be a protest song, but it is what it is”. Mullins solo works are intended to be listened to very carefully and you don’t hear the audience singing along at all. The audience is simply listening and absorbing Mullins singing and songwriting/storytelling talents. All of this is incorporated into Mullins more popular works as well, but with an alternative twist. “Lullaby” for instance has the similar monotone, almost spoken verses you would hear in perhaps a Kristofferson or Johnny Cash song, yet when he breaks into the chorus the song shifts from folk to alternative. The same can also be said for songs such as “Cold Black Heart”.

The concert shifts into a more alternative style when the band is introduced. While it’s not a bad thing, the tone really shifts at this point. While the first half of the concert seems a little bit more intimate of an atmosphere, the second half seems like a regular concert complete with hearing the audience sing along at various points, in fact- it’s encouraged by Mullins. It’s almost as if the folk songs are somewhat of a warm up

to the next series of songs. Songs such as “Shimmer”, “Beautiful Wreck”, and “Lullaby” really carry the momentum of the concert and the crowd is singing along and having a great time. The camera work is top notch for this performance keeping Mullins a constant focus. The show ends with Mullins performing with legendary Atlanta singer Francine Reed on his song “All In My Head”. While the show ends with a bang, it is unknown if Mullins did an encore or not. Perhaps he saved that for the live audience only.

The special features included are an interview, a music video for “Beautiful Wreck”, and a slide show. The interview is very informative as Mullins cites his influences in the music industry, how he got discovered, and a brief look at his career. One particular point he goes into is his regret on titling the song “Lullaby” instead of “Rockabye” which most refer to as the title of the song anyway.

This concert was very enjoyable, though, a little short. Any fan of Mullins would be happy with this DVD, but also fans of the mixed folk singer-songwriter alternative genre.

About the Author:



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