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## The Zombies: Odessey & Oracle {Revisited} – The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert (MVD Visual) + Live At The Bloomsberry Theatre, London (Rhino DVD)

Picture: C+    Sound: C+  
Extras: C/D    Concerts: C+

With hits like *Time Of The Season*, *She's Not There* and *Tell Her No*, The Zombies left their mark as a British Invasion band that is remembered well enough and in recent years, members Colin Blunstone and Rod Argent have continued a respectable revival of the band and their material going in a recent series of revivals. We can now compare two of them on DVD: **Live At The Bloomsberry Theatre, London** and **Odessey & Oracle {Revisited} – The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert**.

The **Bloomsberry** show was taped in 1996 and only included the two former members, while the **Anniversary** show reunites the entire band. While the former is shorter, the performances (down to those hits) are better, have more energy and work better overall. The latter show covers their psychedelic-era album **Odessey & Oracle** then adds their overall hits. In this, the whole band (minus the late Paul Atkinson) is good, but the energy is not always there. They still give a good show, but not great and there is only a two year gap between the two.

The anamorphically enhanced 1.78 X 1 image on both are about even and soft throughout, so they are not the best shot shows. Odder though is the troubles with sound in both cases. The older show has a DTS 5.1 track (not listed anywhere in or out of the case or on the DVD), as well as a Dolby Digital 5.1 mix, but the PCM 2.0 Stereo track is best. The 2008 concert has only Dolby Digital 5.1 and 2.0 Stereo options, but they are no clearer and the soundstage in both cases is problematic.

Only the new 2008 DVD has any extras and it is only one: an excerpt from a documentary about the band, this reunion tour and the making of **Odessey & Oracle**. There apparently was not enough room on the DVD for all of it or any more extras.

- Nicholas Sheffo



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