



**Stone the Crows: In Concert, Beat Workshop (MVD Visual DVD, 120 min.).**

Maggie Bell was one terrific, bluesy rock singer and this concert captures her and the band at their peak in a 1973 German performance. The band had been called Power, until Led Zeppelin manager Peter Grant signed them to Zep's Atlantic-distributed Swan Song label and made them change their name (Stone the Crows is from a Scottish curse meaning "the hell with it."). This show came about a year after original guitarist Leslie Harvey had been electrocuted during a sound check; filling in is Jimmy McCullough, who would go on to play in Paul McCartney's Wings from 1974 to 1977. At 15, McCullough had been in the wonderful Thunderclap Newman (find their beautiful album produced by Pete Townshend; it is a treasure). In 1971, Bell was voted Best Female Vocalist by the melody Maker readers' poll and critics were hailing her as a successor to Janis Joplin. The seven songs here include "On the Highway," "Going Down" and "Good Time Girl." Unfortunately, the band never really recovered from Harvey's death and disbanded later in 1973. Bell went on to record two solo albums for Swan Song and then formed Midnight Flyer with former Foghat bassist Tony Stevens in 1978. Bonus material here are interviews with Bell and drummer Colin Allen, who joined the Crows after being in John Mayall's Bluesbreakers. There also is a history of the band by Rich Wilson.

**Grade: A-**

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