

RECORD COLLECTOR

Maggie Bell & Midnight Flyer

Live Montreux July 1981 Angel Air Waves NJPDVD 629 * *

With the fearless Maggie Bell once again back in the fray this time fronting the short-lived Peter Grant managed blues rock outfit Midnight Fyer after her soujourn as a solo artist which followed the break up of Stone The Crows in 1974 this in concert footage dates from Midnight Flyer's appearance at the 1981 Montreux Jazz Festival where the band found themselves in the elevated company of Albert Collins, John Lee Hooker, Magic Slim and Taj Mahal. From the most part, despite the best efforts of the lion-hearted Miss Bell Midnight Flyer seldom manage to raise the revs above what's for the most part pretty undistinguished / unremarkable blues rock which at no time comes anywhere near matching the panache and gutsiness displayed on the superb Stone The Crows In Concert, Beat Workshop Germany 1973 DVD released earlier this year by Angel Air Waves. Rather than coming from the original material on show the highlights here show up with the guest appearances of Taj Mahal on Bring It On Home and Chain Gang and Albert Collins on the closing Blues Jam and Stormy Monday which lend a welcome sense of gravitas to the proceedings.

Grahame Bent