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America's Music Legacy "Rock 'N Roll" (MVD Visual)

By: Paul Autry

I just spent the last 120 minutes watching this DVD and, in all honesty, I can't even begin to describe just how great I thought it was. Now, I believe the concert that's featured here was recorded in the early 80's and I'm not sure if it's ever been released before or not. But, it's here now and it's available on DVD and, without a doubt, it's a MUST HAVE addition to your music collection because this is what rock 'n' roll is all about. Today, we call this music "golden oldies," which is a term that I don't really agree with because, when I hear that term, all I really hear is the word "old" and, when it comes to music, I don't believe it becomes "old." Good music doesn't grow old. It doesn't age. It's timeless. I will admit that there's a few tunes on here that didn't really age all that well and they didn't do too much to excite me. As far as performance goes though...WOW...are you in for a music lesson. You get to see some good stuff here like The Coasters doing "Charlie Brown" and "Yakety Yak" and The Crystals doing "Then He Kissed Me" and "Da Doo Ron Ron." But, the real highlight here comes during the middle of the show when Chubby Checker goes through a collection of material that includes "Blueberry Hill," "Good Golly Miss Molly," "Whole Lotta Shakin'," "Shake Rattle & Roll," "Hound Dog," "I Saw Her Standing There" and, of course, "The Twist." Watchin' Chubby tear up the stage...and tear it up he does...is worth the price of admission alone. Well...wait a minute...I could say thing about Bo Diddley's performance because it was a real thrill watchin' him rip it up with tracks like "Hey Bo Diddley" and "I'm A Man." I was in a different world when I was watching his performance. I totally forgot about any of that "modern" music that I happen to listen to on a regular basis. Throw in performances by Fabian, Lou Christy, Leslie Gore, The Diamonds and Little Anthony...and you have a viewing experience that's just...ah...there's no way to really put it into words. Let me just repeat myself by saying that this is a MUST HAVE addition to your music collection. This is a DVD that you will watch over and over and over again. I guarantee it.

I have another DVD here from the same series. So, we might as well mention that one as well. Now, the "Rock 'N Roll" DVD was a stage performance in front of a very large crowd. The performance that's featured on "Rhythm & Blues" is a bit smaller in scale. It's a small club with a small audience. So, it's more up close and personal. It's a good release for what it is. It didn't do much for me personally because I wasn't really into the artists that were featured here. The best performance, in my opinion, was Sam Moore doing "Soul Man." Scatman Crothers was also fun to watch. Other artists include Billy Eckstine, Ruth Brown, Billy Preston, Gloria Lynne, Sheer Delight, Brook Benton, Mary Wells and O.C. Smith. If you're a fan of any of these artists, you'll enjoy this release. For me, I've gotta go with "Rock 'N Roll." I just can't seem to get enough of that one.

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