



War

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Nine songs from the group {War} performed at {-The Civic Theater} in Halifax, England find release twenty-seven years after the fact with excellent liner notes by {Clive Richardson} penned in January of 2007. A four page booklet accompanies the eight tracks, opening with a {Lonnie Jordan} keyboard introduction which morphs into a bit of their {Eric Burdon} first hit, {"Spill The Wine"} (sadly, without Eric, and more upsetting, not a full version of one of their best songs) into a nice rendition of {"All Day Music"}. The imagery is fun, though dated by long-shots from stationary cameras. Still, it's vintage stuff and hearing {"Low Rider"} and {"Cisco Kid"} in succession is a bit of funky fun, the material having survived the ages just fine. Seven of the nine songs are bona fide hit records from the dozen the group launched into the American charts.

Booking agent {Jeffrey Kruger}, according to the liner notes, filmed the last night of the U.K. leg of the tour that he put the group on with {Blood, Sweat and Tears}, and thus this excellent DVD. Yes, there is a separate 60 minute {Blood, Sweat and Tears} disc entitled {^Spinning Wheel} taped at this event, none of which is included in this package. {"Gypsy Man"} is mis-spelled "Gipsy Man" and extends over twelve minutes plus, {Lee Oskar}'s harmonica dueling with {Pat Rizzo}'s sax, the group getting into the groove a la {The Grateful Dead}'s type of expression, long before the jam band formula came into vogue and slipped into the mainstream. The camera angles almost feel like a public access TV crew were at work, but that adds to the charm. It's a nice document of the time and shows this band's versatility and ability to keep a vibe electric. The show concludes unceremoniously after about fifty-one and a half minutes as the band is leaving the stage during a terrific {"Why Can't We Be Friends"}, the horns still playing as the footage closes out.