



WAR - LOOSE GROOVES: FUNKIN' LIVE IN ENGLAND

Formed in Southern California in 1969 by Eric Burdon (front man of the 60's band The Animals) and veteran producer Jerry Goldstein, War was a multi-racial/cultural musical stew of rock, funk, jazz, R & B and even Latin and Brazilian influences.

Despite their not so peaceful moniker, the band wrote songs that shouted out against violence, racism, crime, gangs and turf wars, and with their debut album in 1969 came the worldwide hit ³Spill The Wine².

The band was so powerful and influential at the time that guitar legend Jimi Hendrix, who was a friend of Burdon's, jammed with the band on stage the very night that he died.

Through the years War would see many band members come and go and with this 1980 concert titled Loose Grooves, Funkin' Live In England, 1980 only keyboard player Lonnie Jordon remained from the original line up.

A promotional tour filmed by Jeffrey Kruger at a 1980 performance in Halifax, England, this nearly 60-minute show certainly showcases the bands biggest songs; ³Low Rider², ³Why Can't We Be Friends² and ³Cisco Kid², however the omission of the full version of ³Spill The Wine² was a little disappointing, with the song being limited to only a teasing, showopening intro.

Although the musicianship on stage is stellar, Loose Grooves presents a set in which the visuals are hard to follow at times because of dull lighting and cameras that should have been placed at better vantage points.

Despite this flaw however, the talent of the band still shines through despite being a little past their prime at this point, displaying a fluent mixture of jazz, rock, funk and some very complex, Brazilian-flavored rhythms and percussion.

Although the visual quality of production at times, leaves a little to be desired, Loose Grooves is a rare visual from a band that melded together many musical styles, and did it almost effortlessly.

- Joe Milliken