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Sue Foley – Live In Europe

For those unaware of {Sue Foley} her debut DVD, {^Sue Foley Live In Europe}, is a wonderful introduction.

The main event is a baker's dozen tunes recorded live at {~The Underground}, Koln, Germany, December 6th 2005. The venue is a hotspot for live music being issued on DVD and this performance, in advance of the artist's 2006 {@Ruf Music} audio disc, {^New Used Car}, is highly accessible and fiery. The camera catches all the excitement, longshots fade into cuts of all the musicians on her original instrumental, {"Hooker Thing"}, played fast and tight. Keep in mind that Foley's penchant for punk rock seeps through in her audio presentation, the {\$Dick Dale} surf sound most obvious on {"Mediterranean Breakfast"}. Her mastery of the Fender Strat is immediately clear, so much so that Foley does not have to sing every tune, and is not afraid to place two instrumentals back to back. {\$Tom Bona}'s drums set a good backbeat for her to cruise over, {\$Michael Turenne}'s bass never getting in the way, allowing {\$Graham Guest} the opportunity of coloring the music with some of his inspirational keyboard work. A selection of eight songs from a second concert, taped on {@Ruf Music}'s "Blues Caravan Ladies Night" with fellow Ruf artist {\$Ana Popovic} on the bill (though not on this DVD), gives more bang for the buck, and the viewer an opportunity to see how Foley can shift genres and expand the music from pure blues to anything that tickles her fancy. {"Absolution"} appears on both concerts, a vocal original from the new album which morphs into an instrumental middle section that might as well be {\$Big Mama Thornton}'s {"Ball & Chain"}, made famous by {\$Janis Joplin}. You almost expect {\$Sue Foley} to go into the lyrics from that showstopper, but the band uses it to stretch instead.

Think {\$Big Brother and The Holding Company} with less overdrive and distortion. Along with the elegant packaging - giving the three bandmates a photo each as well - there's {\$Vincent Abbate}'s fourteen minute interview containing lots of great insight, the artist discussing her musical journey and her ongoing book on "Guitarwoman". The photo gallery isn't totally necessary - there are so many great shots in both videos, what's the point? Sonically you'll want to enjoy the main concert, the production values extremely high, but both gigs are clear indications that {\$Foley} is no-nonsense and quite capable of cutting new, unexplored paths.