

In Tune

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VARIOUS ARTISTS,
"National Lampoon Live:
Un-Leashed" (Uproar/
MVD Audio) ★★★

— Stand-up comedy, by its nature, is very much a visual medium. That's not to say comedy albums can't be great — just check out anything by Richard Pryor, Bill Cosby or Eddie Murphy — but it helps to see the comedians going through their routines. "National Lampoon Live"

is a pretty good compilation record, featuring Frank Caliendo and lesser-known comics Rob Cantrell, Alonzo Bodden, Bonnie McFarlane and Gary Gulman.

Caliendo, the host of the evening, does his familiar (and very funny) shtick, ripping off impressions of John Madden and Al Pacino. Cantrell gets the least amount of space on the album, which is appropriate considering I didn't find him to be the least bit funny. Bodden generates some chuckles with riffs on Bed, Bath & Beyond and psycho chicks. Lone female comedian McFarlane is refreshingly funny with her deadpan delivery and R-rated take on the homeless and high-heeled shoes. Gulman is the most polished of the bunch and provides the highlight of "National Lampoon Live" with bits on modern technology, cheerleaders and zoology.

Some of the material is dated — there are references to post 9/11 airport security and Fox's 2003 reality show flop "Joe Millionaire" — but for the most part the jokes are pretty timeless. I just wish they were funnier. (JS)