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KISSology, Volume Two (KISS: 1978 – 1991) with KISS in “**Attack Of The Phantoms** (1979) + **KISS – Cat Tales** (MVD/GVM DVD)

Picture: C+/B-/C Sound: B-/C+/C Extras: B/C/C+ Compilation: B Feature Film: C+

Continuing their very in depth archival presentation of history through compilation, KISS is back with a 3-DVD **KISSology, Volume Two**, made more interesting by the first-ever widescreen release of their **Attack Of The Phantoms** feature film that those in the U.S. have only seen in pan & scan copies in its TV movie version. This time, the set covers the period from 1978 all the way to 1991. What seemed like a decline and end to many did not phase the band, their label or the KISS Army that has supported them through thick and thin. There is also a related release, **KISS – Cat Tales**, which offers more goodies than expected. But first, the **KISSology**.

The content this time includes the following, starting with DVD 1:

Land Of Hype & Glory (excerpt)
1/10/78

KISS in “**Attack Of The Phantoms**” (1979) feature film

The Tomorrow Show with Tom Snyder (excerpt)
10/31/79

DVD 2:

“**Shandi**” Music Video

CNN Interview With Peter Criss
9/24/80

Countdown (excerpt)
9/21/80

Rockpop

9/13/80 with “*She's So European*” & “*Talk To Me*” live.

KISS Invades Australia 1980 Documentary

Sydney Snowground - Sydney, Australia

11/22/80

“*Detroit Rock City*”

“*Cold Gin*”

“*Strutter*”

“*Shandi*”

“*Calling Dr. Love*”

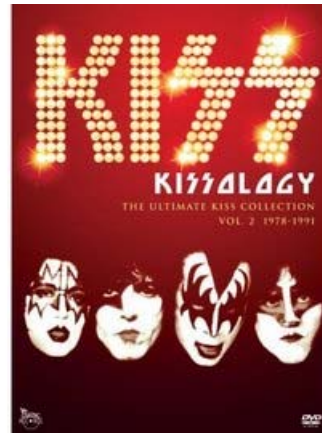
“*Firehouse*”

“*Talk To Me*”

“*Is That You?*”

“*2,000 Man*”

“*I Was Made For Loving You*”



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"New York Groove"
"Love Gun"
"God Of Thunder" (incomplete)
"Rock 'n' Roll All Nite"
"King Of The Nighttime World"
"Black Diamond"

Fridays (ABC's attempt to have a **Saturday Night Live** type hit)

1/15/82

"The Oath", *"A World Without Heroes"* and *"I"*.

Top Pop (November, 1982)

"I Love It Loud"

DVD 3:

Maracana Stadium – Rio De Janeiro, Brazil

6/18/83

"Creatures Of The Night"

"Cold Gin"

"Calling Dr. Love"

"Firehouse"

"I Love It Loud"

"War Machine"

"Black Diamond"

"Rock 'n' Roll All Nite"

Cascais Hall – Lisbon, Portugal

10/11/83

"Creatures Of The Night"

"Detroit Rock City"

The Spectrum – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

12/18/87

"Love Gun"

"Bang Bang You"

"No No No"

"Crazy Crazy Nights"

"Reason To Live"

The Palace Of The Auburn Hills – Detroit, Michigan

10/14/90

"I Stole Your Love"

"Deuce"

"Heaven's On Fire"

"Crazy Crazy Nights"

"Black Diamond"

"Shout It Out Loud"

"Strutter"

"Calling Dr. Love"

"I Was Made For Loving You"

"Fits Like A Glove"

"Hide Your Heart"

"God Of Thunder"

"Forever"

"Cold Gin"

"Tears Are Falling"


"I Love It Loud"

"Detroit Rock City"

"I Want You"

"Rock 'n' Roll All Nite"

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Day In Rock 11/25/91

“God Gave Rock N Roll To You” Music Video

It is amazing how they never let up, always gave their fans and audience nothing but top effort and never sold out their base, being bad boys on the level of the best bands, no matter how the industry or popularity of Rock changed or declined. As a result, they are not just another band and at this point, more than just some legacy/nostalgia act. That makes this set all the more interesting, with material many have never seen outside of diehard fans.

As for the 1979 **Attack Of The Phantoms** feature film, it turns out Joseph Barbera and Avco Embassy co-produced the film and for all the decades it was thought of as a mere cheap TV movie, it was actually a widescreen, big screen theatrical film production that was released as such overseas. The anamorphically enhanced 2.35 X 1 image was shot in some scope format, but as hard as we tried, could not find out by this posting.

We suspect it is either Techniscope, Super Scope, a similarly optically printed scope format they could/would not credit and did not want to discuss by the time it aired on NBC since they did not want anyone to know it had been butchered for TV. As well, the contract was for TV and they likely did not want to mislead fans on any theatrical release in the states. As silly as the film can get, it should get credit for throwing in every genre idea in Sci-Fi, Action, Fantasy and Horror it could dream up to go with their Superhero personas in Marvel Comics. As well, it pushed their Mego Action Figures, though sadly, the TV ad for those toys is not here despite appearing on a previous KISS release.

With that said, the picture on the feature film looks good, a new transfer done especially for this set and both fans of the band and of 1970s pop culture will want to catch this entire set just for this film. A Dolby Digital Stereo upgrade of the film's sound is very welcome, annihilating the original mono track included. The rest of the set has KISS commentary, but three actors from the film (Carmine Caridi, Deborah Ryan and Don Lewis) cover the actual film. You have to see it at least once!

Like the various materials from the previous set, the image quality varies throughout, from professional analog NTSC videotape to 16mm and 35mm film footage, but all is 1.33 X 1. The producers have done their best to make this all look good and they have done a decent job. The regular color TV taped segments are comparable for the most part to the best DVD collections we have seen of such material and the filmed footage is especially solid. The sound is here in Dolby Digital 5.1 mixes better than the 2.0 mixes in mono, stereo and stereo-boosted mono. The 5.1 is just good enough in most cases to be the preferred choice.

Another interesting aspect of the set is to see two key members (Peter Criss, Ace Frehley) and the signature make-up leave, but those members would eventually return, as shown in another DVD release, **KISS – Cat Tales**. Focusing on the reunion tour, there is an hour of Criss being interviewed, more footage of the band doing promos and pre-show filming from the 2003 farewell tour. There is even extra footage adding up to a volume worthy of the **KISSology** itself and this is often rough material that may never be seen on home video otherwise.

Besides the commentaries already noted, the **KISSology** has a nicely illustrated booklet inside its DigiPak foldout, a reproduction ticket involving the feature film and our set also has a bonus DVD of their 1978 Tokyo concert that was a smash success. Between the two releases, that will be plenty of KISS until the next the **KISSology**.

For more on the first volume and the band, try this link:

[http://www.fulvuedrive-in.com/review/4816/KISSology,+Volume+One+\(KISS+1974](http://www.fulvuedrive-in.com/review/4816/KISSology,+Volume+One+(KISS+1974)

- Nicholas Sheffo

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