



MOUNTAIN - LIVE IN PARIS (DVD) (B+) Voiceprint/MVD Visual, 2006

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[<http://www.mountaintheband.com/>]
[<http://www.mountainthebanddvd.com/>]
[<http://www.myspace.com/mountainfans>]
[<http://www.voiceprint.co.uk/>]
[<http://www.MVDb2b.com/>]

In 1985 Mountain released their comeback album GO FOR YOUR LIFE and were asked to open as special guests on Deep Purple's European tour. LIVE IN PARIS was, as you might have guessed, shot on that tour in the City Of Lights and features the band, including co-originator Leslie West (who started the band with original bassist Felix Pappalardi in 1969), longtime drummer Corky Laing and then bassist/keyboardist Mark Clarke performing six songs for the surprisingly large audience. At the time Leslie was still struggling with weight problems and honestly he looks quite wired during this performance, often wide-eyed and playful as he throws drum stands around and catches Corky's sticks mid-air, obviously having as good a time as the excited crowd. Compared to today's extravagant DVD releases this is a rather no-frills affair as the running time clocks in at under an hour and there is no bonus material included, but I must admit it's a treat to see these guys crank out solid renditions of old favorites like "Nantucket Sleighride" and the obligatory "Mississippi Queen," as well as what at the time was one of their new songs "Spark." The sound quality is rather inconsistent in places, with some vocal and guitar dropouts and keyboards not always sounding as full as they could have due to Mark Clarke pulling double duty (triple if you count the vocals he does as well), but overall the show is very listenable, especially if you crank the volume to the appropriate concert level. Perhaps not the best document to introduce someone new to the band, LIVE IN PARIS is certainly a must have for Mountain fans and an interesting look back at the group's mid-'80s period.

- Neal Woodall