

dvd

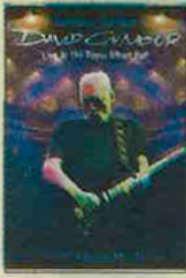
DAVID GILMOUR: REMEMBER THAT NIGHT – LIVE AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

Verdict: Not quite in the Pink...



THE show captured on this DVD was a more personal, intimate affair than usual for Gilmour.

It's all relative, of course. Playing a two-and-half-hour show at the Royal Albert Hall and filming it in high definition with 23 cameras wouldn't be *that* scaled-down for most groups. But Gilmour is best known as guitarist with Pink Floyd, a band more used to building walls across Earls Court and strafing them with Spitfires. And anything is intimate compared to that...



For Floyd fans, this two-disc package will be a real treat. Disc one includes an entire show by Gilmour's impressive band (including the Floyd's Richard Wright on keyboards and Roxy Music's Phil Manzanera on guitar), complete with guest appearances by David Crosby, Graham Nash, Robert Wyatt and even David Bowie.

The audio-visual quality is stunning but, to be honest, the music is more variable. It's all very well performed – Gilmour's soaringly precise and melodic solos are right on the money – but the songs from his recent *On An Island* solo CD (played here in its entirety), are mellifluous and tuneful but all sound like slightly blander versions of old Pink Floyd tunes (sometimes eerily so).

It doesn't help much that they're surrounded by the genuine PF classics – like *Shine On You Crazy Diamond*, *Breathe* and a full-length *Echoes* – that they so closely resemble.

If you're anything like me, you probably hanker for the days when the combination of Gilmour's sweetness and Roger Waters' venom produced music of real longevity. Today, the guitarist looks too contented with his new wife and young family (who feature prominently in the special features) to want to go through all that again – which is good news for him, if not for us.

But the band is brilliant and Gilmour's unpretentious bonhomie permeates through the entire team, most of whom have brought their own families along for the ride.

By the time Bowie shows up at the RAH to sing *Arnold Layne* and, to paraphrase Wright, turn *Comfortably Numb* into a David Bowie song, the audience are eating out of their hands.

The plentiful extras on the second disc push the running time well past the five-hour mark. They include *Breaking Bread*, *Drinking Wine*, an entertaining and often funny 46-minute documentary about Gilmour's ultra-posh European tour, ranging from an awkward meeting with former collaborator Roger Waters at Bray Studios through an eventful stop-over to play in Venice's St Mark's Square to an emotional encounter with Lech Walesa before a Solidarity anniversary show at the Gdansk shipyards.

There's also *The West Coast*, a five-minute look at the US tour with a brief cameo from Jude Law; a documentary about the making of *On An Island*, and numerous other live performances, among loads of other stuff.

It's good value, Gilmour himself comes over well and everyone looks like they're having a great time, both on stage and off.

Out Monday

EXTRAS OOOOO: *Wot's... Uh The Deal; Dominoes; Wearing The Inside Out* featuring Richard Wright; *Arnold Layne* featuring Richard Wright; *Comfortably Numb* featuring Richard Wright; *Documentary – Breaking Bread, Drinking Wine; Dark Globe; Astronomy Domine* live from Abbey Road; *This Heaven from the AOL Sessions; BBC Mermaid Theatre concert: 1 Castellorizon 2 On An Island 3 The Blue 4 Take A Breath 5 High Hopes; Making of 'On An Island' Documentary; The West Coast; Music Videos for On An Island and Smile; Island Jam 2007; photo gallery.*

SEAN HEWITT