

Rush in Rio DVD

There's something that has always been true about Rush – you either love them or you hate them and there isn't much ground between the two extremes. Personally, I love them and have done since I first heard them seventeen years ago. At the time I was first getting into drums and so it was kind of exciting to hear this guy Neil Peart play, as I'd heard so much about him.

Fast forward an awful long time to November 2002 and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil where Rush are playing their first ever shows at three huge stadiums in the country. This two DVD box set covers the performance of the third of the Brazilian shows in Rio (like you didn't already figure that much out already), which also happened to be the last night of their Vapor Trails tour. In the three nights in Brazil they played to approximately 125,000 people.

The first disc covers the Rio show in its entirety from beginning to end with no edits. Starting the show off with their classic tune Tom Sawyer and following it with songs such as The Big Money, The Trees and numerous others from the Vapor Trails album, the band play a total of 28 songs, plus Neil's solo, over the course of well over two hours.

Filmed with 22-cameras and with audio options including Dolby 5.1 Surround Sound and Dolby Digital Stereo, this new DVD shows Rush at the top of their game. Being a drummer, my personal favourite track was Neil's solo, O Bateria, however I can't help thinking that during the whole show he looks so much more relaxed with himself and his playing than he ever did.

The second disc is mainly a documentary covering the whole Brazilian leg of the tour with backstage footage, interviews and commentary and a couple of extra tracks (multi-angle and hidden) included. The documentary is particularly interesting to watch as it shows something about Rush that isn't always easy to remember – hey, they're just regular guys! This is also very apparent during the show, with all three of them smiling and laughing quite freely and enjoying themselves. Humour isn't something that is readily attributed to Rush and so this works well to dispel that (listen out for the Homer Simpson sample if you need proof).

This is a great exponent of Rush as they are today: as strong and powerful as ever and in my personal opinion, Neil has never looked or sounded better when he plays. A must have and classic for fans of the band, although if you didn't like them in the past, I doubt you will now either.

To quote Neil, 'Just listen to them (the audience) singing along to YYY – an instrumental – and you realise this is no ordinary audience'. For Rush fans, this is no ordinary DVD.

For more info, go to www.rushinrio.com

Dave Bateman
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