

Neil Peart - Anatomy of a Drum Solo dvd

There's a reason why Neil Peart is known as "The Professor" of the drum kit. If you require proof, try and recall how many other drummers' solos that have been released on vinyl [as it were] that have been nominated for a Grammy award. The answer, to the best of my knowledge, is none, and of course the solo we're talking about here is O'Baterista from the Rush In Rio cd/dvd. So, as you may expect, this fact alone might qualify Neil as someone who knows one or two things about putting together a good solo. Although the solo dissected for the purpose of this DVD isn't the aforementioned one (it is in fact 'Der Trommler – The Drummer' from the R30 DVD which was recorded on the band's 30th anniversary tour), it does still feature many of the same passages and themes from O'Baterista.

Now first of all, as Neil makes clear, this DVD isn't to teach you how to play his solo it is intended more to provide inspiration and ideas for your own solo outings.

Disk one starts out with a brief intro from Neil about the genesis of his solo experiences and influences. He then moves into the studio for an introduction to [as I saw it recently described] The SS Professor – his kit.

Once we've had a kit run-down, we move onto the full length solo. Neil then proceeds to break down the different sections of the piece, explaining the inspirations (and in some cases you can see/hear these in full as you can these on the onscreen option which comes up). The tail-end of the disk features Neil playing by himself for about half an hour, which is fun to watch and although I doubt it's the sort of thing you'll be watching over and over, it is nice to take in all the same.

Disk two has some nice special features including an interview with Lorne Wheaton and Paul Northfield (Rush's engineer and co-producer), a few minutes of Neil's kit being put together (and you think you have a hard time at a gig!), a photo gallery, a few more drums-only song performances from R30 and then a couple of other solos – another one from the R30 tour as seen from the overhead/on stage cameras, the aforementioned O'Baterista and one from another from 1994's Counterparts tour.

In rounding up, I got several things from this DVD, the least of which was a few answers to some questions I had with regard to how Neil physically plays some things.

Anatomy of a Drum Solo is the typical high quality Hudson Music production you'd expect so there are no worries on that front. Neil is clearly very comfortable in front of the camera and this comes across in the ease of his delivery, although there is one part at the beginning where he is clearly reading from the autocue which doesn't detract from what he is saying in any way, but it is noticeable, although hardly a criticism.

A top DVD and a further insight into an amazing drummer.

I can't think how this DVD couldn't be a winner: you have a proven company and format together with an amazing talent in the form of a drummer who has been at the top of his game for 30 years. If you are into soloing then you really should be buying this as there are very few drummers more proficient at the art. Personally, I'm not into soloing, however, I am a fan of Neil and I really enjoyed it on that level alone and I think just fans of Rush would enjoy it too. A top DVD and a further insight into an amazing drummer.

More info: <http://www.hudsonmusic.com/index1.php> or email hudstoneuro@aol.com or you can buy the DVD on the mikedolbear.com online store here

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