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Cutting Crew/Little Steven/Style Council – Live At Full House Rock Show (German TV Concert Series/3 Separate DVDs)

Picture: C/C+/C Sound: B-
Extras: C Concerts: B-/B/B-

Another music concert series little known in the U.S. is coming to DVD and it is called **Live At Full House Rock**

Show, certainly not to be confused with the stupid sitcom of the same name but a series from Germany that was featuring top music talent of the time. For this first look, we look at three volumes that all have their moments of 30 shows that were produced.

Cutting Crew was hot in 1987 with the still-remembered *I Just Died In Your Arms*, then moderate hit *One For The Mockingbird* and somewhat lame *I've Been In Love Before*, both of which appear in their seven-song set. This show captures them at their peak, though *I Just Died In Your Arms* is not as good here as hoped for. Still, it is an interesting appearance.

Little Steven had not yet become the well-known actor from **The Sopranos** when he was on a political tear against Apartheid in South Africa (as a founder of the Sun City Project), heavy collaborator with Bruce Springsteen and battling the atrocities of the Iran-Contra Affair at a time when Pop Music was still able to be socially relevant with the likes of New Wave in the middle of airheaded bubblegum tunes. Songs like *Los Desperados*, *Pretoria* and *Out Of The Darkness* have as much edge and power as ever.

Style Council had one small hit in the U.S. with *My Ever Changing Mood* in 1984, but that is not among the eight songs featured here. They were not my favorite English duo from the "new romantics" movement, but Paul Weller of the great band The Jam is a founding member and is here, so there will be interest from that end too. Not bad overall either.

The 1.33 X 1 image for all three were taped in the analog PAL format, all in color, but all except **Little Steven** are much softer and detail-challenged than expected. The Dolby Digital 5.1 mixes are a bit better than the Dolby 2.0 versions, though the original sources are not as sonically sound as the competing **Ohne Filter** show, which we have



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reviewed often elsewhere on this site. Still, they were in stereo and the 5.1 mixes are preferred. Extras include interviews with the artists at the time of the concert by Alan Bangs that are worth your time. All have interesting things to say.

- Nicholas Sheffo



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