



BLACKALICIOUS

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Recorded on April 20, 2006 at the {-Showbox Theater}, {^4/20 Live In Seattle} has M.C. {\$The Gift of Gab} leading the fun dressed in a nondescript striped shirt and white hat while giving his poetry to the crowd in a sort of everyman persona. The concert performance is excellent and the audio is fine, but the main camera shot with a sea of hands onscreen tends to get annoying over repeated viewings and the secondary angles could have added to the excitement with some better lighting and movement. These are minor quibbles, however, for the group {\$Blackalicious} take the sound and mind tricks of their original {"Chemical Calistenics"} to an entertaining plateau and provide the energy that their audience clearly enjoys. {"Blazing Arrow"} dips into {\$Harry Nilsson}'s classic {"Me And My Arrow"} groove, this talented outfit slipping their diverse talents into the tracks with clever abandon and never overwhelming.

This isn't the fabric {\$Sly Stone} wove, {\$Blackalicious} tease and tempt through the fourteen tracks, with commentary in-between that creates an inadvertent documentary out of this almost sixty minute concert. {\$The Gift of Gab} is eloquent in this conversation that breaks up the live set, his perspective during the interview segments as interesting as his on-stage banter. Though they give praise to {\$Chuck D} as an inspiration, there's not enough {\$Public Enemy} textures or {\$Sly & The Family Stone} rhythms that the {\$Blackalicious} music promises. It's a good first DVD that plays to their base, but the potential not yet fully realized on this outing.