

DETRITUS

NEO - BROADCAST (DVD) (A-/B+) Metal Mind/MVD, 2007
13 tracks, RT: 140:00

Navigating their way through 13 classic tracks from such progressive rock heavyweights as Shadowland, Arena, IQ, Pallas, and Pendragon is the recently formed "supergroup" Neo, a conglomeration of members from the aforementioned bands who chose to film this performance as their first release. Primarily consisting of bassist John Jowitt (IQ, Jadis), guitarist Mark Westwood (the Martin Orford Band), keyboardist Clive Nolan (Arena, Pendragon, Shadowland) and drummer Andy Edwards (IQ), the band also features the talents of Pallas vocalist Alan Reed, Pendragon vocalist/guitarist Nick Barrett, and Pendragon keyboardist John Barnfield. The DVD was filmed in the luxurious Wyspianski Theater in Katowice, Poland, bringing to life choice selections such as "For The Greater Glory," "The Hanging Tree," "Shadows Of Fate," and "Paintbox." Multi-camera angles serve to illustrate the consummate musicianship of the participants, who seem to effortlessly mix nimble and intricate rhythms with ethereal melodic accompaniment. The sound is exquisite, with every instrument occupying its own sonic space. My only complaint would be the set list, which I would have altered slightly to leave out the relatively bland "Mindgames" and include several new tracks, but this is a minor issue for sure. Also included are the usual extras, including an informative and humorous interview with Jowitt and Nolan, band member profiles and amateur video footage of the band at soundcheck. Neo exemplifies the finest aspects of what has come to be known as the Neo Progressive movement (hence the name), and this excellent DVD is not only essential for fans of the bands represented here, but should also find its way into the hands of prog enthusiasts who have yet to be acquainted...

- Neal Woodall (MysticX9@gmail.com)