

GODSEND ONLINE : latest reviews 07.07

Echo & The Bunnymen - "Dancing Horses" DVD - Ian McCulloch and Will Sergeant's band was an 80's alt.rock cornerstone, melding moody post-punk guitar rock with darkly romantic poetry (but don't dare call them goth). Eventually, like most groups of the era, they fractured and ended up a sort of embarrassing parody of themselves. This 2005 live performance captures the band in their reformed, reinvigorated state, and it's not necessarily just another nostalgic cash-in. Sure, the Bunnymen parade out new-wave classics like 'Dancing Horses', 'Killing Moon', 'The Cutter', and 'Lips Like Sugar', but the set here focuses more on their recent material, which holds up favorably to their beloved and influential catalog. The show itself is well-shot, with multiple cameras and a 5.1 surround mix. The music sounds good and surprisingly modern. However, I do have one issue. Basically, McCulloch and company aren't all that energetic or interesting to watch. Mac's stoic, stationary stance leaves me cold, and, truth be told, quite bored. A bonus 47-minute interview with the band is insightful, too, but McCulloch appears cocky and self-reverential when discussing the history of his band. Bleah. I say longtime fans should pick this up, whereas casual observers look for a Bunnymen 'Best Of' CD and stick with that. (Secret Films c/o MVD Visual)

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