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Waking the Witch: Live (View all DVD Editions) SHARE E-MAIL SAVE

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About the DVD
This fifty-eight minute and twenty-three second concert recorded live on January 25th, 2007, is beautifully filmed at the intimate City Varieties Music Hall, in Leeds, West Yorkshire. The four vocalists/guitarists - Patsy Matheson, Jools Parker, Becky Mills and Rachel Goodwin create a mix of Celtic and old world folk backed up by their unison singing and gorgeous harmonies. Parker's original, "Dissatisfied Heart", recalls Boston area pop band from the 1980s, Girls Night Out, the strength of this foursome embellished by the really exceptional camera work of Andy Gamble, Jeff Cousins and Jo MacDonald, who coordinate their shots as precisely as the vocalists blend their voices - perfect synchronicity between those onstage and those capturing the moment. The eleven songs are from the separate pens of all four vocalists except for "Only Human", which is a collaboration from Matheson and Mills. Eighteen minutes into the program the gals invite the rhythm section of drummer Mick Bedford and bassist Jon Short to join them in concert, a pair of musicians who played on their first album as well as the new one released at the time of this taping. Dr. Jonny Burr also joins the band on harmonica for an excellent rendition of the aforementioned "Only Human". The pans are slow and rapturous taking in the visuals the soft lighting of the hall provides while the full group is very powerful, the addition of the three extra musicians a superb job of pacing the folk music with letting the sounds rock out. The bonus tracks consist of twenty-four minutes of interview footage with commentary by the four women individually and a quick thank you to many of their fans in a brief one minute segment utilizing the first track as audio, Becky Mills' composition, "Jenny Thornton and the Boys from the Abattoir". In an interesting move they add an uncredited studio track to the DVD, "Yorkshire Boy", the most poppy and accessible song on the disc, as the audio to the root menu. Rather than merely finding a refrain or guitar riff, as most menus go, "Yorkshire Boy" - the complete version from the 2007 album Boys From The Abattoir (with lyrics included in the slick and jam packed eight page booklet) plays endlessly and it is a delight as is this entire package from concert to the four interviews. The U.K. Voiceprint company does a fantastic job with these DVDs, and - as with John Martyn's The Man Upstairs, In Concert In Germany, 1978 - the front and inside covers feature paintings by Dales artist Philomena Mills along with artwork by Jon Price. ~ Joe Viglione, All Movie Guide

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