

Iron Maiden – Live After Death DVD Review
By Michael Makuch
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I just purchased a blast from the past in the form of Iron Maiden's "Live After Death" DVD. For the first time in over 20 years this live show documents Maiden's seminal Powerslave Tour. I used to have a VHS copy many years ago and I haven't seen the show for many years so it is a treat to be able to own this treasure of a concert film in a high quality DVD format. In fact, this is the first time this concert has been available in any format since it was originally released in the mid 80's.

"Live After Death" is a 2 DVD set and is affordably priced at around \$15. The first disc is the original concert while disc 2 contains documentaries, rare live footage, a picture gallery and two promo videos from the Powerslave album. The set beautifully reproduces the graphics and contains a decent booklet, which is a rarity in most DVD packages.

We've all come a long way from the time I found a busted cassette of "Live After Death" (no doubt tossed from a car in a fit of disgust with regard to the thin tape used in 'double length' single cassettes and their ability to bind easily with in-dash cassette players), that needed some reconstructive work that required a risky tape transplant to another tape body and razor sharp splicing to resurrect the music contained therein, to the point where I now possess said concert on CD audio and, now, DVD video formats I couldn't have conceived of in the old days!

The music itself, of course, is timeless. This show captures Maiden cresting on a glorious wave of thoughtful, chop driven heavy metal. For me the highlight of this show, then and now, is 'Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner' a long and moody piece about an old poem from the 18th century. I was already into Iron Maiden at this point, having been lured in by, 'The Flight of Icarus' video, which was played regularly on MTV (Remember when MTV played videos?) and the subsequent purchase of the album it was on (Piece of Mind – 1983), but I hadn't heard much from their previous three albums. Which didn't matter, ultimately, as 'Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner' was on "Powerslave" which followed "Piece of Mind" and was their grandest statement yet as a band. "Live After Death's" version of 'Rhyme' is what turned me from being a passive fan into a rabid fan of Iron Maiden: Causing me to investigate all of Maiden's music and discovering along the way that all of their albums are unique and individual while still retaining the band's trademark sound and style.

I know I'm probably preaching to the choir but there is certainly a new and younger generation, raised on their parents' music, that haven't experienced a concert quite like this. Whether you're new to Maiden or a fan from way back, this DVD is well worth the price for a window back in time.