

DVD Review: Phish's new concert dvd raises the standard

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Live in Brooklyn
Phish
Rhino Records

Phish recently released "Live in Brooklyn," which contains the full first show of their last tour, filmed on June 17th in 2004.

Let me start this review by saying that I am in no way a Phish-head who worships the band and has thousands of bootleg shows stashed around; in fact, before I bought this DVD, I knew the title of only about 2 Phish songs, and had never really heard their music. So I bought this DVD on a whim, and was very pleasantly surprised.

For those who have never heard Phish, this band is extremely talented, and its musicians know how to play their instruments very well. Phish has often been catego-

rized as one of the two essential jam bands—the other being the Grateful Dead. This genre grouping doesn't really equate to any one musical sound, but it does mean that the band will take part in lengthy instrumental improvisations, and Phish definitely does just that on the DVD—most of the time to good effect, although sometimes not.

The band really shines with the ability to create wildly different musical styles, from the straight rock jam of "Dinner and a Movie" to the bluegrass flavor of "Possum" and the classical sounds of "The Oh Kee Pah Ceremony." The funky groove remains throughout most all of the material, highlighting songs like "Moma Dance." This DVD also includes intimate backstage and sound check footage.

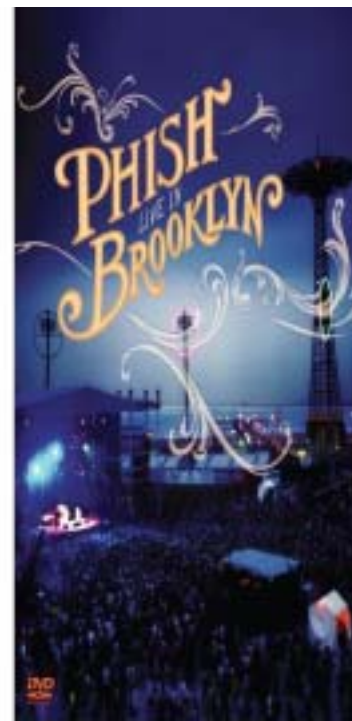
There is much to be said about the guitar playing of Trey Anastasio, as he swings from beau-

tiful melodic passages and chord progressions to extremely articulate fretboard aerobics. His guitar playing is the main focus most of the time, but all of the band members shine throughout.

Keyboardist Page McConnell is probably the most solid of all the members, and usually plays two keyboards at once, filling-out the sound palette left open by the other three musicians.

Bassist Mike Gordon and drummer Jon Fishman don't often take the spotlight on this DVD, but are always integral to the sound created.

Without a doubt the best part of the DVD is the audio and video quality. I have many concert DVDs, ranging from the original Woodstock to Nine Inch Nails, and none of them come close in terms of production quality. With a good audio system and a big screen, this DVD could be a truly beautiful experience. ■



LIBRA Sept. 23- Oct.22

Look at your balancing act! It's cracking and you know it! You will attract all those nasty crazies you wanted to avoid: too bad. They've got your scent now. Your lucky color is seasoning salt orange.

Aries: As the week's "Put it Away" theme progresses, this advice is most certainly for you. We all know you like a challenge, but it might be better for you to just sit this one out eh? Your lucky color is North Village mold.

Taurus: Ah, the star of the signs. The planets and all their horrible little orbiting children are leaving you alone for this week.

Horoscope

Your scatterbrained days are gone, for now at least. Your lucky color is beetle black.

Gemini: You're such a perfectionist. But, today this is a good thing. People who aren't pulling their weight could mess up your makeup. Turn it out! Your lucky color is Cafeteria carpet water stain.

Cancer: It's always about you! Crusty crustaceans aren't liked as it is, but you're just being bitchy now. Call your shrink and let him know you're on the way. Your lucky color is Boshamer Gym green.

Leo: Patience kitty. Don't sink your claws into the wrong mouse or professor just yet. Wait till you can corner them—then see

what happens. Your lucky color is dingy white squirrel.

Virgo: Time and space are almost never available. This week's advice to the divine virgin is to nail yourself inside a box. That is the only way you'll achieve true solitude. Your lucky color is blue shame.

Scorpio: Oh, you serial killers (it's what scorpions do) always have the best time! Even though you're wishy-washy and plain dull in conversations. Well, we all know where you make up for that—keep up the good, or rather so-so, job. Your lucky color is asbestos ceiling.

Sagittarius: Archers beware: you're not firing at the love you seek—because she/he/it ain't

interested. You're probably better off spending your time on Myspace checking out the artificial honeys. Your lucky color is purple/pink/gray toilet streak.

Capricorn: Well amphibious goat folk, it looks like your half-done nature is still in check this week. You really should get over trying to avoid life. You're not really that good at avoiding anything. Your lucky color is East Jones tile.

Aquarius: It's the age of Jupiter, water babes. You know what this means? You just need a little TLC. Don't share now, it's all for you. Your lucky color is mystery meat beige.

Pisces: As we learned last week, fish can't remember anything. So what is interesting about you this week is that you have become impatient. Where do you have to go? Better swim fast. Your lucky color is South Village mold.