

BUM NOTES



REM Live – REM

Well, it took them long enough. This is the band's first ever live CD, so we've been waiting 27 years. Was it worth the wait? Yes and no: the double live CD set is excellent; it was recorded over two nights in Dublin in February 2005 on the creatively named *Around The World Tour*. The set list is quite interesting – if I was one of those real music reviewer tossers I'd say “eclectic”. It kicks off with a barrage of guitars that is *I Took Your Name*, off 1994's *Monster*, which for me, is one of their best. The band then works through more recent cuts including *Imitation Of Life* and the it-grows-on-you *Leaving New York*. You obviously get *Everybody Hurts*, *Man On The Moon*, *Losing My Religion*, *Orange Crush* and another pick, *Bad Day*, which includes the classic line: *Shit so thick you could stir it with a stick*. REM always seem to get back to their rock roots when they play live – even the more complex songs have more guitar in the mix – Peter Buck really earns his keep on stage. Back to the negative I mentioned earlier: the DVD that's included. It's exactly the same concert – which is good in principle, as REM always put on a good show visually, but that's overshadowed by the editing. It seems Edward Scissorhands teamed up with Charles Manson and went berserk in a blender. The effects are total overkill – it's like the director kept asking “what does this button do?” Call me old fashioned, but unlike those young whippersnappers today, the band doesn't need it – but then again, REM are always up for something different. Buy *REM Live* for the audio, but if you want to see them live, get your hands on the brilliant 2004 concert DVD *Perfect Square*. – STEVE WILLIAMS

Lionel Richie Live (His Greatest Hits And More) – Lionel Richie

I assume it's très uncool to like Lionel Richie. Whatever you say about him, he puts on a fantastic live show. I saw him in concert two years ago and you definitely get your money's worth – well, I would have if I'd have paid. Richie has been performing since the 1960s, was lead singer of *The Commodores* in the 70s, went solo in the 80s and is still going strong – over 100 million album sales later. *Lionel Richie Live* was shot in Paris in May 2007 and has all the hits – *Easy*, *Dancing On The Ceiling*, *Running With The Night*, *Still*, *Stuck On You*, *Hello*, *All Night Long*... I may as well list the back of the DVD because every song is a hit. The set list is a snapshot of his career and his fans' lives – as he says: “Tonight we're going to do everything; you're going to remember where you were, what you were doing, and who you were doing it with.” Cheesy stage patter? Absolutely, but he does it well and has the Parisians eating out of his hand. His voice has still got it, and he has a very tight band, especially his lead guitarist who does the whole rock god thing pretty well. The DVD documents one of the real pros of the business. Incidentally Wikipedia has a great Richie story – I have no idea of its veracity, but I hope it's true. At a taping of *Top of the Pops*, another guest on the show tied a piece of string from the knocker of Richie's dressing room door to the knocker of the next dressing room. When one door was closed, the other door knocked. Unfortunately, über diva Mariah Carey was next door. This door opening/door knocking went on until Carey stormed in to see Richie innocently sitting in his dressing gown. She screamed abuse at him and threw a tub of face cream over him. Richie couldn't get the cream out of his hair before his spot, and performed with an 80s gelled up hairstyle. I'm an instant fan of anyone who can piss Mariah Carey off – especially without doing a thing. – STEVE WILLIAMS

