

Sticky Fingers Live at the Fonda Theatre 2015 From the Vault Series

Eagle Rock, 2017

It was a one-off, when the Stones decided to play Sticky Fingers in its entirety to coincide with a deluxe reissue in 2015. Always a risky business, but – heavens be praised – they pulled it off! Presumably knowing that it was a one-off, they spared no expense in the filming and recording, and it shows. The DVD is outstanding: great shots of the band, plenty of close-ups and, an innovation, some aerial shots of the band, particularly Charlie, which break the mould. As always, there are too many shots of and celebs and babes in the audience, who, one imagines, had been bussed in, but plenty of fans as well. The sound recording is sharp and punchy.

The band got it spot on (one guesses that it was Mick) when they did not play the album in the order in which it appears on the record – starting with Sway and finishing with Brown Sugar. The slower numbers are particularly impressive, and the live airing of Moonlight Mile is a highlight.

Special kudos to Ronnie whose solos on Sister Morphine, Sway and Can't You Hear me Knocking? are sensational. Not the same that could be said for Keith, unfortunately, whose solo on I Got the Blues is a wreck, but, unlike the stadium shows, Keith cuts back on his showboating and focuses on the job in hand. Mick is great, too. It just makes you realise – for the thousandth time – what a brilliant album Sticky Fingers is.

The interviews in-between songs (which look as though they were recorded in the same place as the original inside photo from Sticky Fingers was taken) are revealing and funny. Great to hear the admiration that Mick and Keith extend to Bobby Keys and Jim Price for their horn contributions. It is nice, finally, to see Sir

Mick let his guard down and admit that Brown Sugar is the one song that he would take with him. Really, after all these years, he is entitled to feel justifiable pride.

The bonuses are nothing exceptional, although All Down the Line rocks nicely. All in all, an excellent release and the best so far of the From the Vault series.