



BeatleBoots



THE Beatles LIVE

THE BEATLES LIVE 1965-66 HOUSTON & GERMANY

GK Records; GK074

GK Records have issued a selection of live Beatles concerts on superbly packaged CDs. The packaging resembles that of the original Parlophone albums the band released in the 60s. My first choice is the set from the concerts in Houston and Germany.

The Houston set consists of 13 tracks from the 19 August 1965 concert. The sound is much cleaner on this than I have heard before.

The strain of touring had clearly taken its toll on John's voice. He seems to be struggling with the vocals at the start during 'Twist and Shout' and this continues during 'I Feel Fine' and 'Dizzy Miss Lizzy'. He is also clearly struggling at the end of 'Ticket to Ride'. Paul's voice, however, seems just as strong as ever during 'She's a Woman' and throughout the show. This may be due to the fact that John has 8 lead vocals during the show, whereas Paul has just 3. The gruesome schedule during the entire tour was clearly tough on John. Incorrect lyrics are sung in 'I Feel Fine'. ('She's in love with her' is sung rather than 'She's in love with me'). George's excellent guitar playing and Ringo's great drumming stand out. Ringo's vocals though are partially lost during 'I Wanna Be Your Man' due to a microphone failure.

The Germany shows are incomplete but are taken from Munich Circus Krone on 24 June 1966 and Hamburg Ernst Merck Halle on 26 June. The Munich show has just 6 songs, whilst the Hamburg gig has excerpts only for 'She's A Woman', 'If I Needed Someone', 'Baby's in Black' and 'I Wanna Be Your Man'. John's voice is in better shape here than the Houston show, probably due to the 6 months break from touring before this one kicked off. This recording picks up Paul's vocal far clearer than John's suggesting who ever recorded it wasn't central to the stage.

The Hamburg show was the last The Beatles played in Europe. Despite the incomplete German sets, it is an excellent compilation from a period where The Beatles had become fed up with touring. There isn't the energy of those 1964 concerts and as a result with the clear vocals it seemed as though The Beatles were going through the motions and were fed up with life on the road.

One nice addition is an interview with George speaking German at Radio Luxembourg. The interview shows how good his German was.

