



NIRVANA

******'Live! Tonight! Sold Out!!'* DVD
released December 4th on Universal*****

Fans of Nirvana are in for a treat on December 4th when the band's legendary full-length video 'Live! Tonight! Sold Out!!' makes it onto DVD for the first time. Acknowledged as "the holy grail" for fans of the late Kurt Cobain, its mixture of fly on the wall camcorder tomfoolery and professionally-shot concert footage from the 1991-1992 'Nevermind' tour now includes five previously unreleased live songs – 'School', 'About A Girl', 'Been A Son', 'On A Plain' and 'Blew' – recorded at a show at the Paradiso in Amsterdam in 1991.

Chronicling Nirvana's rise from a scruffy trio from the Pacific Northwest into a multi-platinum rock band, 'Live! Tonight! Sold Out!!' was originally released in November 1994, some seven months after Cobain had stunned and saddened the world by taking his own life with a shotgun. Featuring live performances of songs like 'Smells Like Teen Spirit', 'Lithium', 'Breed', 'Drain You' and 'Aneurysm', it arrived in the racks just a month after the posthumous, semi-acoustic critically acclaimed 'Unplugged In New York' album.

At the time, Nirvana's UK publicist Anton Brookes was quoted as saying: "It's very kooky, very geeky and very good fun. No one really knew the real Nirvana, but it's totally them. They were a good laugh and really nice people. And with the rest of the crew, it was one big family."

As the cameras roll, we find Nirvana in the process of becoming the most iconic and important bands in the history of rock music. The opening scenes of Cobain fooling around onstage in a wheelchair, sporting a blonde wig, give an indication of the project's 'au naturel' feel. Later on, Cobain messes around with drummer Dave Grohl (now leader of the Foo Fighters, in case you've been living in a cave on a desert island) in an impression of MTV cartoon prats Beavis & Butt-head. The band's ugly underbelly is also apparent. At a festival appearance, a messed-up and unhappy Kurt can be seen sporting a dress and a bra, dropping to his knees and using his last drains of energy to crawl offstage. He makes a tragic looking rockstar.

Obviously, the band were far from comfortable with their new-found status as icons. When faced with the prospect of becoming a faceless multi-million dollar corporation – just like the kind of acts they'd been railed against at the start – Nirvana got twitchy and uptight. At one point in 'Live! Tonight! Sold Out!!', after Headbangers Ball veejay Riki Rachtman has told them "I've never heard of a band getting a bigger buzz", bassist Krist Novoselic ruminates: "We're getting more mainstream, but in doing that we're hoping we can turn people onto different types of music; maybe the underground scene. There's more bands out there than these giant, Harley Davidson-riding bands. That's one of our missions."

Significantly, in the light of what would follow, Cobain himself comments: "We chose not to be part of the popular crowd. The jocks always asked if I wanted to join their little club and I decided not to. I would rather hang out with the people that didn't get picked for the baseball team, and who smoked cigarettes and listened to rock 'n' roll music."

Cont...

The idea of making ‘Live! Tonight! Sold Out!!’ came to Cobain back in 1991, and according to those in the know it was very much “his baby” during its almost three-year genesis. After Kurt’s death, the project was brought to fruition by Grohl and Novoselic, along with Steve MacCorkle. Direction is by Kevin Kerslake. Footage was filmed in Amsterdam, Dallas and Tokyo in 1991, the 1992 material sourced from Seattle, Honolulu, Reading and Denmark, with scenes from a show in Sao Paolo, Brazil, also added.

Back in late 1994, Kerrang! said of ‘Live! Tonight! Sold Out!!’: “This gives the whole Nirvana story from log cabin layabouts to stadium superstars – their frustrations, anger and real personalities. It answers all the questions you were too scared to ask, taking you closer to the band than any mega-budget movie ever could. It’s raw, brutal and honest. And very watchable.”

For the first time, the footage has been colour corrected with all the latest modern technology where necessary, and its soundtrack re-mastered Dolby 5.1 Surround Sound and Dolby 2.0 Stereo. No doubt about it, Kurt would have been proud.

**Live! – Roland Hyams on 020 8677 8466 / 020 8769 6713 roland@workhardpr.com
30th October 2006.**