

King Crimson □ – Radical Action (To Unseat The Hold Of Monkey Mind) [2016]

Written by bluesever

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Mainly Metal CD1-1 *Larks' Tongues In Aspic Part One* CD1-2 *Radical Action (To Unseat The Hold Of Monkey Mind) I* CD1-3 *Meltdown* CD1-4 *Radical Action II* CD1-5 *Level Five* CD1-6 *The Light Of Day* CD1-7 *The Hell Hounds Of Krim* CD1-8 *The ConstruKction Of Light* CD1-9 *The Talking Drum* CD1-10 *Larks' Tongues In Aspic Part Two*

Easy Money Shots

CD2-1 *Peace* CD2-2 *Pictures Of A City* CD2-3 *Banshee Legs Bell Hassle* CD2-4 *Easy Money* CD2-5 *VROOOM* CD2-6 *Suitable Grounds For The Blues* CD2-7 *Interlude* CD2-8 *The Letters* CD2-9 *Sailor's Tale* CD2-10 *Scarcity Of Miracles*

Crimson Classics

CD3-1 *Red* CD3-2 *One More Red Nightmare* CD3-3 *Epitaph* CD3-4 *Starless* CD3-5 *Devil Dogs Of Tessellation Row* CD3-6 *In The Court Of The Crimson King* CD3-7 *21st Century Schizoid Man*

John Armitage Guitar Jason Birnie Drums Biff Blumfumbagne Flute, Guitar, Saxophone
Mel Collins Flute, Saxophone Robert Fripp Guitar, Keyboards Gavin Harrison Drums Jakko
M. Jakszyk Guitar, Vocals Tony Levin Bass Pat Mastelotto Drums Bill Rieflin Drums,
Keyboards Michele Russotto Bass, Drums

When it comes to quality live material, there's never been a better time to be a King Crimson fan than the 2010s. In addition to the exhaustive 40th anniversary boxes, there have been multiple releases from the 2014-2015 seven-piece band culminating with *Radical Action to Unseat the Hold of Monkey Mind*, a set that features every song performed on the tour in excellent audio and video quality.

The vast majority of the set was recorded in Japan, with other shows filling in on the songs that weren't performed there. Every show was recorded in high-quality audio and video with a multi-camera shoot, so there's no difference in quality. While the band doesn't improvise as extensively as they have in the past, a comparison of the solos shows that they aren't phoning in their performances, either. The Blu-Ray presents the show (mostly) as it happened from

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beginning to end. The cameras were in fixed positions (for minimal distraction) but they effectively capture all the action. Sometimes the superimposed shots get a bit dense as they try to show as much musical action as possible, but on the whole, the footage and direction are excellent. You even see Robert Fripp smiling at times! If you just want to experience the show without the visuals, there's an option for that on the Blu-ray version.

The CDs dispense with the running order of the show (and the audience!) in favor of slightly arbitrary thematic groupings: "Mostly Metal," "Easy Money Shots," and "Crimson Classics." These are different mixes than those on the Blu-ray set, specifically for audio-only. The different mixes and running order provide a different feeling to the sets, but both are equally powerful. This band is a juggernaut and hearing them tackle not just the '70s repertoire they hadn't performed in decades, but some '90s tracks as well, is something fans could not have dreamed of at the turn of the century. Rarely has a band that's been around for 45-plus years sounded so vital. This is essential for fans. ---Sean Westergaard, AllMusic Review

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