Crazy Diamond Dave

In which an unshaven Mr Gilmour installs a fretboard camera and goes to work. Magic.

David Gilmour
‘In Concert’
(Capitol)

As an unshaven and dressed-down Gilmour shuffled around the stage, strumming tentatively (and a cappella) around the opening chords of ‘Shine On You Crazy Diamond’, my daughter interrupted the playback. “You could do that, dad – charge people to watch you tune up.” Fortunately, the remainder of this low-key solo show on London’s South Bank in 2001 proved that Dave... sorry, David, can do things not many people could.

Instead of serving up a straight Floyd Unplugged, he did the unexpected and included material from Richard Thompson, original Floyd man Syd Barrett (‘Terrapin’ and ‘Dontinues’), a new song, ‘Smile’, and even a little Bizet to make this a varied treat for more than just dyed-in-the-wool Floyd fans. A cello, a gospel choir and sterling supporting guitars/vocalist Neil MacColl all play their part.

BONUS features include selections from this year’s show which include guest appearances from Rock Wright and Bob Geldof. The latter features on ‘Comfortably Numb’, the only repeated song, which had Robert Wyatt singing the verses in 2001, and sees Gilmour switching from acoustic to electric guitar for a magisterial solo. Tinkling of which six solos can be viewed from Gilmour’s fretboard camera “for the anarchists who want to follow my fat little fingers”, while rehearsal footage and lyrics complete the package.

There really is something for everyone here. But maybe it’s about time he let somebody give him an image makeover.

Michael Heatley