



December 11, 2012

**The Yardbirds: *Making Tracks: On Tour 2010-2012* [DVD]**

(MVD Visual) Maybe three or four years ago I spent a week or so near New Bedford, Mass. and devoted one night to seeing an unexpected concert featuring, er, "The Yardbirds" and "The Animals." And while both bands featured only remnants of the personnel that drove them in their prime—the Animals featured Eric Burdon, the Yardbirds only drummer Jim McCarty and bassist Chris Dreja—I was unexpectedly impressed by both. This Yardbirds set, shot more recently, features



McCarty and Dreja accompanied by a seriously hot band that credibly performs the hits the original band made famous back in the '60s, and even without departed singer Keith Relf and the celebrated guitar trio of Eric Clapton/Jeff Beck/Jimmy Page, did not do their memory a disservice. A second disc, featuring various extras as well as a performance by McCarty's own band—post-Yardbirds, the man acquitted himself quite respectably in Renaissance, Shoot and Illusion—is surprisingly enjoyable as well. Though you may be too hip to frequent the sort of bands that these days play county fairs, as this set reveals, you might sometimes be surprised by what you see.