

Advance Publications

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DVD Spotlight

Joan Armatrading, “Steppin’ Out: Greatest Hits Live” (Eagle Rock Entertainment) 3 stars.

You can tell by the hairstyles and the clothes that this newly released DVD was definitely filmed 30 years ago.

Yet there’s little to suggest that time warp in Joan Armatrading’s soulful brand of folk and rock passion, which still sounds as immediate as when this was first broadcast in 1980 on the German television show “Rockpalast.”

With a fine, six-piece band that includes keyboardist Dick Sims and drummer Richie Hayward behind her, the British-based songwriter takes fans through 15 songs including some of her best, like “Cool Blue Stole My Heart,” “How Cruel,” “Me Myself I” and “Rosie.”

Bonus footage includes an interview from the same era as the original recording.

Occasionally a bit darkly lit by today’s standards, the music is nevertheless compelling. This is a nice reminder of Armatrading’s many talents as she prepares a comeback album due out in the coming weeks.