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May 2010

Forever

Free

Review

by Joe Viglione

Forever is an absolutely stunning double DVD on the British blues-pop band that reinvented **the Rolling Stones'** number one hit from 1969, "Honky Tonk Women," for their Top Five ticket to fame, "All Right Now," coming a year after the **Stones** classic. That half of this group, singer **Paul Rodgers** and drummer **Simon Kirke**, would form **Bad Company** and crank out hit after hit, chart action beginning in 1974, makes this compelling collection all the more valuable. There's so much great material on the two discs that one can spend hours exploring the restored archival footage, the new interviews, and perhaps the frosting on the cake -- multiple camera images from the **Isle of Wight** festival performance. You can literally remix your own version of "All Right Now" with all the footage made available from the cameras that captured the legendary festival. Five original videos from the band's early days along with material from *Beat-Club* in Germany and Granada TV from 1970 will keep the viewer happily busy. There are four different versions of "All Right Now" alone and commentary from **Rodgers**, **Kirke**, **Andy Fraser**, New York Daily News critic Jim Farber, and Simon Kossoff, brother of the late **Paul Kossoff**. The interviews were recorded in May and June of 2006 and fit nicely with the seven pages **David Clayton** writes about the group on the nine-page flip side of the deluxe poster that comes with this double disc. For historians, the package is the quintessential prototype of a musical presentation that is so deep and complex it would be pretty difficult to download from the Web, the collection of sound and pictures lovingly put together to satisfy the devoted. The ten-song **Isle of Wight** concert is predominantly audio with photos, press clippings, 45 covers, and other such memorabilia added as visuals to the soundtrack. Three



songs -- "Mr. Big," "Be My Friend," and "All Right Now" -- contain video footage from the festival and also feature split-screen views, multiple angles, and an original black-and-white edit as well. Truly overwhelming, this compilation is a must-have for fans of **Paul Rodgers**, **Bad Company**, and Free, and captures their early history most effectively.