

= Pink Floyd : Live at Pompeii =

Pink Floyd : Live at Pompeii is a 1972 concert documentary film featuring the English psychedelic rock group Pink Floyd performing at the ancient Roman amphitheatre in Pompeii , Italy , directed by Adrian Maben . Although the band perform a typical live set from the era , the film is notable for having no audience .

The main footage in and around the amphitheatre was filmed over four days in October 1971 , using the band 's regular touring equipment , including studio @-@ quality 24 @-@ track tape recorders . Additional footage filmed in a Paris television studio the following December was added for the original 1972 release . The film was then re @-@ released in 1974 with additional studio material of the band working on The Dark Side of the Moon , and interviews at Abbey Road Studios .

The film has subsequently been released on video numerous times , and in 2003 a " Director 's Cut " DVD appeared which combines the original footage from 1971 with more contemporary shots of space and the area around Pompeii , assembled by Maben . A number of notable bands have taken inspiration from the film in creating their own videos , or filming concerts without an audience .

= = Background = =

Pink Floyd had already experimented with filming outside the context of a standard rock concert , most notably an hour @-@ long performance in KQED TV studios in April 1970 . Adrian Maben had become interested in combining art with Pink Floyd 's music , and during 1971 , he attempted to contact the band 's manager , Steve O 'Rourke , to discuss the possibilities of making a film to achieve this aim . After his original plan of mixing the band with assorted paintings had been rejected , Maben went on holiday to Naples in the early summer .

During a visit to Pompeii , he lost his passport , and went back to the amphitheatre he had visited earlier in the day in order to find it . Walking around the deserted ruins , he thought the silence and natural ambient sounds present would make a good backdrop for the music . He also felt that filming the band without an audience would be a good reaction to earlier films such as Woodstock and Gimme Shelter , where the films paid equal attention to performers and audiences . Through his contacts at the University of Naples , Maben managed to persuade the local authorities to close the amphitheatre for six days that October for filming .

= = Filming = =

= = = Pompeii = = =

The performances of " Echoes " , " A Saucerful of Secrets " , and " One of These Days " were filmed from 4 to 7 October 1971 . O 'Rourke delivered a demo to Maben in order for him to prepare for the various shots required , which he finally managed to do the night before filming started . The choice of material was primarily the band 's , but while Maben realised it was important to include material from the band 's new album Meddle , he was also keen to include " Careful with That Axe , Eugene " and " A Saucerful of Secrets " , as he felt they would be good numbers to film . " Intro Song " was an early version of " Speak to Me " , which later appeared on The Dark Side of the Moon .

The band insisted on playing live , and brought their regular touring gear with them . Their roadie , Peter Watts , suggested that their 24 @-@ track recorder would produce a sound tantamount to that of a studio recording . In addition , it transpired that the natural echo of the amphitheatre provided good acoustics for the recording . The equipment was carried by truck from London , and took three days to reach Pompeii . When it arrived , it was discovered there was insufficient power to drive the equipment correctly , which blew every time it was plugged in . This issue plagued filming for several days , and was finally resolved by running a lengthy cable from the local town hall .

The first section of footage to be filmed were montage shots of the band walking around Boscoreale , mixed with shots of mud , which can be seen at various points in " Echoes " and " Careful with That Axe , Eugene " . For the live performances , the band recorded portions of the songs in sections , which were later spliced together . After each take , they listened to the playback on headphones . Maben closed all the entrances to the amphitheatre , but a few children managed to sneak in , and were allowed to watch the filming quietly from a distance .

= = = Paris = = =

The remaining songs were filmed in Studio Europasonor , Paris , from 13 ? 20 December and can be distinguished by the absence of Richard Wright 's beard . To fit in with the theme of the earlier work in Pompeii , the filming around Boscoreale , along with stock footage of waterfalls and lava and various shots of Roman mosaics and drawings from the Naples National Archaeological Museum were added into the Paris footage . Maben also filmed additional front projection footage for insertion into the Pompeii performances . While both the director and the band were disappointed with this footage , due to a lack of time and money , there was no alternative left but to use it .

During the filming in Paris , the band spontaneously suggested they would like to film a short blues with a howling dog , in the style of " Seamus " from Meddle . Maben knew Madonna Bouglione , daughter of circus director Joseph Bouglione , who was known to walk about Paris with a dog called Nobs . Accordingly , Nobs was invited into the studio , where the footage was filmed .

Maben subsequently did some of the editing of the final cut at home , due to financial constraints . He regretted doing this , as he felt it was important to separate his work and home life , but , at the time , he had no choice .

= = Release history = =

The original release , running for one hour , only featured the live footage . The film was scheduled for a special premiere at London 's Rainbow Theatre , on 25 November 1972 . It was cancelled at the last minute by the theatre 's owner , Rank Strand as they didn 't have a certificate from the British Board of Film Censors and the theatre could be seen to be in competition with established cinemas .

Maben was concerned that one of the problems with the film was that it was too short . In early 1973 , Maben was fly fishing with Waters , and suggested the possibility of improving the film by watching them at work in a recording studio . Subsequently , Maben was invited with a small crew using a single 35 mm camera to Abbey Road Studios to film supposed recording sessions of The Dark Side of the Moon , as well as interviews conducted off @-@ camera by Maben , and footage of the band eating and talking at the studio cafeteria . Maben was particularly happy about this footage , feeling it captured the spontaneous humour of the band . This version premiered on 21 August 1974 , and ran for 80 minutes . The recording sessions were actually staged for the film , as the recording of the album had been completed when these sessions were filmed in January 1973 and the band was mixing the album at the time .

The film wasn 't financially successful according to Mason , though Maben disagrees , and suffered particularly from being overshadowed by the release of The Dark Side of the Moon not long after the original theatrical showing . It was released on various home video formats several times .

In 2003 , the director 's cut version of the film was released , running for 92 minutes . In addition to the concert and interview footage , it includes more overlaid imagery including footage from the Apollo space program and computer @-@ generated images of space and Pompeii , and overall has a busier , " updated " feel . The original 1 @.@ 37 : 1 aspect footage is cropped to 1 @.@ 78 : 1 in this version . The DVD also contains the original one @-@ hour cut in its original aspect ratio as a bonus , a collection of black @-@ and @-@ white footage of the band in Paris filmed by Maben in 1972 , and an extensive interview with the director .

= = Reception = =

Maben was particularly pleased with positive reviews that came out of the film 's showing at the Edinburgh International Film Festival , but was disappointed to hear one New York critic describe it " like the size of an ant crawling around the great treasures of Pompeii . "

Billboard magazine was not enthusiastic about the 1974 re @-@ release , thinking it looked dated , and stated that the film was " dull , unimaginative and hokey , and does not do justice to the Pink Floyd Vision " . However , more recent reviews have been favourable . Billboard reviewed a video release in 1984 , and on this occasion , Faye Zuckerman , while not particularly keen on the footage in the Abbey Road canteen , stated it was " vastly superior to most other concert movies " . Reviewing the Director 's Cut DVD , Richie Unterberger said the film had " first @-@ rate cinematography " and was " undeniably impressive " , while Peter Marsh , reviewing for the BBC , stated it was " my favourite concert film of all time " , though his opinions of the new computer generated imagery were mixed .

= = Outtakes = =

Due to the lack of time in filming , no tracks were filmed that were unreleased , but several alternative shots and outtakes were held in the Archives du Film du Bois D 'Arcy near Paris . At some point , an employee of the owners , MHF Productions , decided this footage was of no value and incinerated all 548 cans of the original 35 mm negatives . Maben was particularly frustrated about the lack of additional shots for " One of These Days , " which is primarily a Mason solo @-@ piece in the released version . Mason recalls the reason for that is that the reel of film featuring the other members was lost attempting to assemble the original cut .

= = Track listing = =

= = = 1972 original film = = =

" Intro Song "

" Echoes , Part 1 " (from Meddle , 1971)

" Careful with That Axe , Eugene " (from Point Me At The Sky , B @-@ side , 1968)

" A Saucerful of Secrets " (from A Saucerful of Secrets , 1968)

" One of These Days " (from Meddle , 1971)

" Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun " (from A Saucerful of Secrets , 1968)

" Mademoiselle Nobs " (from Meddle , 1971)

" Echoes , Part 2 " (from Meddle , 1971)

= = = 1974 theatrical version = = =

Featured on VHS , CED Selectavision and Laserdisc releases .

" Intro Song "

" Echoes , Part 1 " (from Meddle , 1971)

" On the Run " (studio footage) (from The Dark Side of the Moon , 1973)

" Careful with That Axe , Eugene " (from Point Me At The Sky , B @-@ side , 1968)

" A Saucerful of Secrets " (from A Saucerful of Secrets , 1968)

" Us and Them " (studio footage) (from The Dark Side of the Moon , 1973)

" One of These Days " (from Meddle , 1971)

" Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun " (from A Saucerful of Secrets , 1968)

" Brain Damage " (studio footage) (from The Dark Side of the Moon , 1973)

" Mademoiselle Nobs " (from Meddle , 1971)

" Echoes , Part 2 " (from Meddle , 1971)

= = = 2003 director 's cut = = =

" Echoes , Part 1 " / " On the Run " (studio footage) (uncredited) (from Meddle / The Dark Side of the Moon , 1971 / 1973)

" Careful with That Axe , Eugene " (from Point Me At The Sky , B @-@ side , 1968)

" A Saucerful of Secrets " (from A Saucerful of Secrets , 1968)

" Us and Them " (studio footage) (from The Dark Side of the Moon , 1973)

" One of These Days " (from Meddle , 1971)

" Mademoiselle Nobs " (from Meddle , 1971)

" Brain Damage " (studio footage) (from The Dark Side of the Moon , 1973)

" Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun " (from A Saucerful of Secrets , 1968)

" Echoes , Part 2 " (from Meddle , 1971)

Also Known as :

Echoes : Pink Floyd (US)

Pink Floyd in Pompeii (Belgium)

= = Credits = =

Pink Floyd

David Gilmour : lead guitar , slide guitar , harmonica on " Mademoiselle Nobs " , vocals on " Echoes " , " Careful with That Axe , Eugene " and " A Saucerful of Secrets " , additional vocals on " Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun "

Roger Waters : bass guitar , rhythm guitar on " Mademoiselle Nobs " , gong , cymbals , vocals on " Careful with That Axe , Eugene " and " Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun "

Richard Wright : Hammond organ , Farfisa Compact Duo organ , piano , vocals on " Echoes "

Nick Mason : drums , percussion , vocal phrase on " One of These Days "

Based on an idea and Directed by Adrian Maben

Cinematography : Willy Kurant , Gabor Pogany

Camera : Claude Agostini , Jaques Boumendil , Henri Czap , Gérard Hameline

Sound : Charles Rauchet , Peter Watts

Script : Marie @-@ Noel Zurstrassen

Road Managers : Chris Adamson , Robert Richardson , Brian Scott

Production Directors : Marc Laurore , Leonardo Pescarolo , Hans Thorner

Editor : José Pinheiro

Assistant Editor : Marie @-@ Claire Perret

Mixer : Paul Berthault

Special Effects : Michel Francois , Michel Y Gouf

Post Production : Auditel , Eclair , Europasonor

Special thanks to : Professor Carputi (University of Naples) , Haroun Tazieff , Soprintendenza alle Antichità della Provincia di Napoli

Associate Producers : Michele Arnaud , Reiner Moritz

Executive Producer : Steve O'Rourke

= = Legacy = =

The hip hop group the Beastie Boys made a music video for their song " Gratitude " that appears to be a homage to the film . Shot by David Perez in New Zealand , in addition to copying its directorial style of slow horizontal tracking shots , overhead shots of the drums , close up shots of the bass and multiple shots of guitar filling the screen , the video shows a number of speaker cabinets that the group managed to purchase , still labelled " Pink Floyd , London " . The video ends with a message that reads , " This video is dedicated to the memory of all the people who died at Pompeii . " The Beastie Boys claimed in interviews that the song and the video came about due to their desire to progress from being a straightforward hip hop group and add vintage instruments to their repertoire .

The rock band Korn filmed a similar show , Korn Live : The Encounter , in June 2010 to promote their ninth studio album , Korn III : Remember Who You Are . The show took place in a crop circle in Bakersfield , California , and had no audience beyond the crew workers .

Radiohead were noted for being fans of the film and regularly watched it when on tour . According to bassist Colin Greenwood , his brother Jonny made the whole band watch the film , saying " now this is how we should do videos , " Colin , however was critical of the direction , which he described as " Dave Gilmour sitting on his arse playing guitar and Roger Waters with long greasy hair , sandals and dusty flares , staggers over and picks up this big beater and whacks this gong . Ridiculous . "