

Music

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Hawaiian Rainbow

Live action. Producer: Robert Mugge. Mug-Shot Productions. Copyright 1987. Released 1989. Avail. from SVS, Inc. 83 min. Color. \$29.95, home use.

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AUDIENCE: Jr. High to Adult

Hawaiian music can be magical, as demonstrated in this documentary. Filmed on location in Honolulu before a live audience, this program purports to burst some of the myths that have grown up around music from the islands and to offer an authentic performance of the "real" music of Hawaii.

Numerous acts appear onstage and play songs that illustrate the forms and influences that have shaped Hawaiian music. These are authentic native acts rather than the slick nightclub artists who claim to play Hawaiian music. Some of the acts are a bit hokey but honest and sincere in their appeal. The performers "feel" the music as an extension of themselves, and take great pride in being Hawaiian.

There are several commentators throughout the program who dispense information and background about the music and some of the performers. They discuss the history of the music, its development, some of the folklore, and in some cases translate what is being sung in Hawaiian into English.

Many of the musical selections are backed with visuals that were photographed elsewhere on the islands. These shots of the tropical paradise contribute to the enjoyment of the music. Some of the music is even accompanied by hula dancers.

At times, this film-to-video transfer has a pastel tone rather than the dark, rich hues associated with Hawaii. But as anyone who has ever been to the islands can tell you, the light in Hawaii can play tricks with your vision.

The photography is beautiful, far better than a travelogue; long and medium shots are interchanged, along with close-ups of the artists.

Not much appears to have been scripted, yet there has been tight editing, so that segments flow into one another rather than play independently. The commentary by the several speakers is informative and valuable.

Title cards are used to identify the performers. This video will appeal to audiences of all ages, particularly those who are traveling to Hawaii for the first time, as well as those who have been there before and who wish to relive the excitement and romance that Hawaiian music evokes.

Public libraries building travel collections will want to buy this title.

—Andrew A. Aros