

## STAGE PERFORMANCE

## 3 Doors Down


**P4.5/S: DD4.5/DTS5 PRESENTATION • CRITICS' COMPOSITE 5**

*Stars 3 Doors Down: Brad Arnold, Matt Roberts, Chris Henderson, Todd Harrell & Daniel Adair*

Widescreen Review readers have long known Monster® as the world's leading manufacturer of high-performance cables and "power" that connect audio/video components for home, car, and professional use. Well, with **3 Doors Down—Away From The Sun**, a brand new live Houston, Texas, concert; Monster has launched Monster Music, a high-definition surround sound experience that you won't want to miss. You know 3 Doors Down for awesome guitar riffs, rock-out-in-your-car beats, power ballads like "Here Without You," and sing-along lyrics like, "If I go crazy, then will you still call me Superman?" in the hit song "Kryptonite."<sup>SH</sup>

Monster Music is making innovative waves in the industry, offering various types of surround mixes like their "On Stage" experience that puts you on stage with the performing band. In every SuperDisc, each track selection is encoded in both Dolby® Digital and—the highest lossy resolution possible—1.5 Mbps DTS® Digital Surround™. With the *3 Doors Down* video SuperDisc, you can choose two different surround experiences: "In The Audience" puts you in the heart of the arena, and "On Stage" puts you in the middle of the band. Another section on the DVD, a six-minute *Behind The Scenes* featurette that includes interviews with the Head Monster, Noel Lee, the original mix engineer, Ryan Williams, as well as the entire band, where each of them explain the Monster Music concept and talk about the actual concert. The five-minute Monster Tips! explains Monster High Definition Surround Sound, and provides a detailed list of the equipment needed to get the most out of the experience. Tips on how to setup the equipment and loudspeaker placement helps consumers optimize the performance of their home theatre system. A sneak preview of the upcoming *3 Doors Down: Behind Those Eyes* feature is also available on the disc. Disc Two contains a stereo CD for the music experience in your car. In addition, the video and music SuperDisc also contain High Definition Digital Music Files that "Drag and Drop" onto your iPod or MP3 player. Since these songs are encoded from the master files, they are of higher quality than the files you would take from a regular CD. These high-definition digital music files are encoded directly from the master recording, sound incredible, and are designed specifically for iPod users. The MP3 files are also encoded for Dolby

Headphone playback, which provides a virtual surround experience using any headphone and MP3 player combination.<sup>SHDR</sup>

You know the music is going to be fantastic, but expect to be "wowed" by the picture quality of this anamorphically enhanced DVD. With aggressive, music video-like camerawork shaking around the stage, panning up-close to the band members, and zooming over the audience; the visuals are truly exciting. Other songs offer creative shots, like silhouettes, to appear moody and complementary to the music. Colors are rich and vibrant, well balanced, and solid throughout. The stage lighting provides bold colors that flood the stage and audience with yellows, blues, and reds. The picture is sharp and detailed, although there are times when minor smearing is noticed (depending on the camera angle). There is no bothersome edge enhancement, and only occasional pixelization. This is a great visual experience to be enjoyed on DVD.<sup>SH</sup>

With two mixes encoded in Dolby® Digital and DTS® Digital Surround™ 5.1-channel formats, the DVD soundmixes for Monster Music's first release offer plenty of options. Both the Dolby and DTS tracks are encoded at extreme levels, which can be system threatening if the proper precautions are not made ahead of time. Each of the 5.1 channels are used efficiently and effectively, with instruments mixed consistently from start to finish. The Audience track provides the standard mix with front soundstaging of individual instruments and Brad Arnold's vocals. The Onstage mix really places you on the stage with the band, with the drum set imaged towards the rear, and the three guitars imaged nicely over the front stage with respect to their on-stage location. It really is hard for me to understand why the audience cheers are delivered through each of the five full range channels when onstage, but that is only a small issue. The LFE channel is incorporated nicely to build the beat and fill the bottom end of the frequency spectrum, with little sub-50 Hz bass delivered through the main full range channels. The DTS track provides a bit more punch and realism than the Dolby track, with finer detail and more depth in the stage. This is also the first time THX has certified digital music files. The DVD is a standout concert experience that will bring out the best in your home theatre.<sup>SH</sup> ■

Monster Music  
 Catalog Number 123752-00  
 (SP) Stage Performance/Not Rated/\$24.98  
 DVD-9 + CD/Anamorphic Widescreen/THX  
 Dolby Digital 5.1 & DTS 5.1  
 2005/59 Minutes/Color/Chaptered  
 Widescreen Television Aspect Ratio 1.78:1  
 Rick Siegel (Director Of Photography)  
 Eric Bruggemann (Editor)  
 Scott Mahalick & Bill Patterson  
 (Executive Producers)  
 Kendall McCarthy (Co-Producer)  
 Doug Biro & Alex Gibney (Producers)

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