



REM: Live At The Olympia (Warner Bros)

'THIS is not a show,' says REM's Mike Mills at the start of a live album that attempts to do something different with a tired format. Spread

over two CDs (and with singer Michael Stipe in relaxed but determined mood) it captures the week of 'working rehearsals' the band undertook in a Dublin theatre in 2007. In addition to preliminary versions of tracks from last year's urgent, chunky *Accelerate*, the band also revisit the folky jangle-pop of their formative years on stunning renditions of *So. Central Rain* as well as *These Days*.

★★★★★