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## R.E.M.

Olympia Theatre  
Dublin, Ireland

July 7th, 2007

R.E.M. have not made a flat-out rock album since 1994's *Monster*. But onstage, throughout the post-Bill Berry era, they have never been less than *Document* on hot wheels. This visceral, open rehearsal of nearly a dozen songs from the group's next album suggests the amps are back on eleven in the studio and guitarist Peter Buck has cranked his treble to match. The audience-mike fidelity puts a *Murmur*-like haze on Michael Stipe's vocals, but there is no mistaking the combat, left over from 2004's *Vote for Change* Tour, in the opening segue of "Living Well's the Best Revenge" and "Staring Down the Barrel of the Middle Distance." R.E.M. also go back to the great ancients "West of the Fields" and "Gardening at Night" with a resurrection fervor that climaxes in the encore with the unreleased fight song "I'm Gonna DJ," in which Stipe promises to be the last man standing at the end of the world, with turntables blazing.

DAVID FRICKE