

Every Penguin Dance Now

Mister Anderson

Achievement in Use of Music: Shortlist 2007
Achievement in Innovation: Shortlist 2007

The review below may contain spoilers for *Happy Feet*.

Brad: I don't see how anyone could watch this video without a giant grin.

It must have taken Mister Anderson forever to put this together, what with all of the intricate lip-syncing and motion matching, but that's certainly not what you're thinking about when you watch it. That's part of the brilliance of the vid, in my opinion. Everything just fits in such a wonderful way.

Nicky: I don't think I've ever watched this vid without wriggling in my seat. Even as I type up this review I'm totally bopping away. It is completely addictive, and most of that can be attributed to the fact that Mister Anderson completely aligned the dancing and singing visuals to the music. It's every bit as proficient as a professional video; I wouldn't have been surprised if I found this vid as a special feature on the movie DVD.

Brad: I remember the first time I saw it I just couldn't believe my eyes, and it just kept getting funnier as the vid went along. My 4-year-old son, meanwhile, was dancing and laughing the whole time. (He still requests it.)

Nicky: That's so cute! I don't have a 4-year-old son, but if I did I'm sure he would be doing the same. Meanwhile, I see my husband is still trying to hold onto an ounce of manliness and is very obviously trying not to start dancing.

Brad: The different speakers of each line are so well chosen - from the emcee who starts and ends the song (if you don't chuckle a bit when you see "comin' at cha" at 0:21, check your pulse), to the baby penguins (the verse beginning at 1:00 had me rolling), to the female penguin. And the repeated "What?!?" just kills me every time!

Nicky: I completely agree with those, and I also want to point out the hilarious feet swishes starting at 3:00.

Brad: Really, I think the rhythm of the editing is what gives the vid its personality. There are so many potential pitfalls in a vid with this structure - full of jump cuts and repeated images - but the pace of the editing and camera angle connections stay unfailingly fluid and musical. Mister Anderson certainly had to do some manipulating of the footage to make it all work this way, but it's amazing how easy it is to not notice that.

Nicky: As a matter of fact, I think a lot of the humour in this vid comes from the fact that Mister Anderson unabashedly keeps using the same clips for certain music cues such as the

feet swishing or the aforementioned "What?!?" It's not something you would normally see in vids, but it works unbelievably well here and adds incredible comic value.

Brad: I even love his little "Mr. Anderson TV" logo. There are so many little touches like that sprinkled throughout the vid.

Nicky: That is really neat. I wish I were cool enough to have a logo like that.

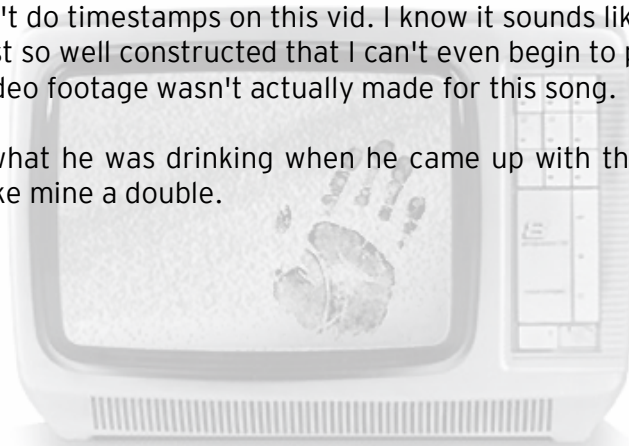
Brad: One of my favorite non-vocal moments of musicality is the breakdown at 1:39, which honest-to-God is hard not to dance to. And I don't dance. The in-sync flippers at 1:50 are another wow moment. Anytime you can compliment a vid on its well-timed use of flippers... well, that's gotta be a pretty interesting vid, right?

Nicky: That's certainly a compliment I've never given to anybody else before.

Brad: The knock into the water at 2:15 on "dry me off" is another laugh riot, and the sliding feet at 3:00 are pure brilliance. By the time we get to the killer whales at the end I'm quite literally out of breath, and I doubt I'm alone.

Nicky: I honestly can't do timestamps on this vid. I know it sounds like a fob-off, but honestly - the whole thing is just so well constructed that I can't even begin to pick it apart. I have a hard time believing the video footage wasn't actually made for this song.

Brad: I don't know what he was drinking when he came up with this idea, but I'll have what he's having. And make mine a double.



THE FOURTH WALL
