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IVO PERELMAN a high-energy tenor-saxophonist, is featured throughout **LIVE IN NEW YORK** (Oct. 16, 1990, 58:40) with an all-star group (Geri Allen, p; Fred Hopkins, b; Andrew Cyrille, d; Mino Cinelu, Elson Nascimento, perc; Flora Purim, vcl.). Available from VAI's Jazz Video Collection, this film consists of three lengthy performances played before an audience at the Knitting Factory. Perelman is in some ways a throwback to Albert Ayler in that he uses folk and children's melodies as a basis for his intense improvisations. The most impressive number is the first one, "Slaves Of Jo," which contains a particularly explosive Perelman solo that, because of its occasional references to the melody, is strangely accessible. Flora Purim might at first seem out of place in this setting but she manages to follow Perelman's wild flight with some fairly weird ideas of her own (using an echo device). "Nesta Rua," starts off with some creative inside/outside piano by Geri Allen before Purim (who is unnecessary on this track) does what she can. Flora is quickly forgotten after Perelman takes over, using repetition well on this unsettling ballad. The final piece "The Carnation and the Rose" (which is without Purim) gives some space to the rhythm section (Cyrille is quite colorful) although once again Perelman takes solo honors.

Throughout, the camerawork is excellent (kudos to Michael Grenadier who directed and edited this film) and the music is quite exciting. This video is well worth acquiring.

Scott Yanow