

DVDs & BOOKS

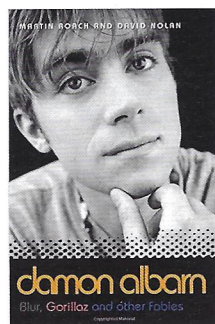
BOOKS

DAMON ALBARN: BLUR, GORILLAZ AND OTHER FABLES

By Martin Roach and David Nolan

(Music Press)

6/10



The only available dedicated biography of Damon Albarn, this 299 page book makes you realise just how versatile and talented a musician and songwriter Albarn is. It's hard to believe that he started his career with a part-time music course in London and would go on to become one of the icons of

Britpop. Co-founding the legendary Blur back in 1988, the band would go on to huge success, rivalled only by Oasis as kings of the genre. He survived the rise and fall of Britpop by completely reinventing himself as the mastermind behind virtual band Gorillaz, as well as playing with The Clash's Paul Simonon in The Good, The Bad & The Queen, releasing his eclectic solo album 'Everyday Robots' and working with recently deceased soul titan Bobby Womack. Blur even returned last year for their first album in over a decade, the critically acclaimed 'The Magic Whip'. A creative artist, all this is covered in this book. However, the fact there's no new interviews with Albarn, only quotes and first-hand interviews with those close to him in his formative years, means the book is lacking Albarn's own voice.

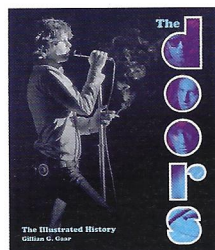
Sam Cunningham

THE DOORS: THE ILLUSTRATED HISTORY

By Gillian G. Gaar

(Voyageur Press)

7/10



This striking 196 page hardback book is an extensive year-by-year study of the LA '60s rock legends. Although their time with iconic frontman Jim Morrison was relatively short – the band formed

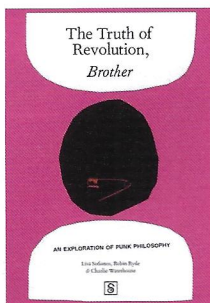
in 1965 and Morrison tragically died, aged just 27, in 1971 – there's plenty of stories from those six years, as well as the tales of surviving members Ray Manzarek, John Densmore and Robby Krieger as a three-piece after Morrison's death and their more recent work with the likes of Ian Astbury, Scott Weiland, Perry Farrell and Skrillex. With over 150 photos, LPs and singles images, gig posters, ticket stubs and more, this book is as visually stunning as it is in-depth – there's an in-depth analysis of each of The Doors' studio releases by numerous respected music journalists. An impressive, chronological read that takes you on the fascinating journey of The Doors, with all their soaring highs and

THE TRUTH OF REVOLUTION, BROTHER

By Lisa Sofianos, Robin Ryde and Charlie Waterhouse

(Situation Press)

9/10



Co-author Robin Ryde says, "The philosophy of punk offers a way of doing things differently. It offers a route out of a system that persists in failing us. And the voices heard echoing through the pages of this book won't be with us forever. If you

are fascinated by punk, philosophy, popular culture, art or how to live now, then this book will have something profound to say to you." Over 288 pages, 30 in-depth interviews and analysis mixed with striking illustration, intimate black and white photography and original art from several of the book's interviewees, this is a unique and inspiring read. Interviewees include Jello Biafra (The Dead Kennedys), Ian MacKaye (Minor Threat/Fugazi), Steve Albini (Shellac/Big Black), Penny Rimbaud (Crass), Dunstan Bruce (Chumbawamba), Tim Smith (Adverts), Mark Stewart (The Pop Group) and Jon Gnarr (ex-mayor of Reykjavik), just to name a few. A compelling and important book to get you thinking about what's important in life.

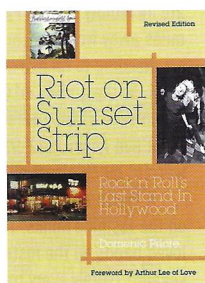
Ian Chaddock

RIOT ON THE SUNSET STRIP

By Domenic Priore

(Jawbone Press)

8/10



This revised edition of Priore's book, subtitled "Rock 'n' roll's Last Stand in Hollywood", this 400+ page book is a detailed examination of the short-lived but vibrant music scene that arose out of nowhere in LA in the 1960s. Tracing this

"artistic awakening" to when The Byrds debuted at Ciro's on March 26th 1965 – with Bob Dylan joining them on stage – up to the demonstrations of November 1966, Sunset Strip was the epicentre of LA's music scene and saw the launching of seminal bands/acts such as The Doors, Love, Buffalo Springfield, Frank Zappa's Mothers Of Invention, Captain Beefheart and His Magic Band, The Turtles, The Standells and more! With rock 'n' roll displacing movies as the most important entertainment in Hollywood in the '60s, this book is a fascinating look at a time and place, complete with period maps and the magic of the Strip in its '60s prime. The definitive book on a scene that birthed the careers of numerous classic bands, 'Riot on the Sunset

DVDs



I NEED A DODGE! JOE STRUMMER ON THE RUN

By Nick Hall

(Cadiz)

7/10

In 1997, two years before his first album with his world music influenced new band the Mescaleros, former Clash frontman Joe Strummer was in his self-described "wilderness years" and was interviewed on Spanish radio. He tells the radio DJ about the Dodge car he bought in Madrid twelve years earlier but later lost and the DJ puts out a call to the Spanish people to look for the punk legend's car. Joe says he left it in a carpark but can't remember where and there the car has stayed. The resulting varying accounts of the colour of Strummer's Dodge shows how it has sort of passed into punk folklore, much like Joe's time in Spain in 1985 following the break-up of The Clash, with musicians working with their hero and sightings of the much-loved artist. Director Nick Hall even tries to track down the missing Dodge. An insight into Strummer's troubled years, this film features emotional interviews with former Clash members and is a revealing look at a period of his life that's previously not been detailed. The packaging of the limited deluxe edition of the DVD really makes it an essential purchase for Strummer fans, with a wide range of items and gifts. There's a six panel digipak that folds out into a boombox design, a cassette tape with a copy of the original interview with Joe on Spanish radio, an eight page booklet with original artwork and notes from Chris Salewicz, Joe Strummer's biographer, a screenprint postcard and Joe Strummer banknote. Also the 67 minute film is accompanied with 70 minutes of extras, including audio and visual interviews.

Sam Cunningham

