

When it comes to satirical bluegrass music, it doesn't get much better (or funnier) than the Austin Lounge Lizards, their celebration of their twentieth anniversary, their show at Antone's was captured for posterity and serves as a greatest hits collection as well. If you've never heard these boys crack wise with such gems as "Highway Cafe of the Damned," "Stupid Texas Song," or "Rasputin's HMO," you owe it to yourself to watch this disc. They're great writers, even better musicians and a damn fine band to party to. Yee-haw!

The Austin Lounge Lizards
Lizards Times Twenty: Live at Antone's
 (Blue Corn Music)



The Rolling Stones
Singles 1963-1965
 (ABKCO)



One might question the motive behind issuing a box set of Stones singles, when most, if not all have appeared on *The London Years* collection, or on other albums. This, the first of three volumes is squarely aimed at collectors who will appreciate the re-creation of the original single and picture sleeves, the discs designed to look like black vinyl and the extensive liner notes, replete with rare photos and recording information. Viewed as a series of progressions in their musical career, it's fascinating to trace the Stones' beginnings as a covers band and watch as they evolve into competent songwriters with a growing number of hits under their belt. The twelve discs culminate with the *Got Live If You Want It* EP—right before their biggest hit of 1965, "Satisfaction," but include "The Last Time," "Little Red Rooster," "Not Fade Away" and "Time Is on My Side." While not an essential purchase, the concept and excellent packaging will make it worthwhile for hardcore fans.

Art Blakey & The Jazz Messengers
Live at the Village Vanguard Club New York 1982
 (Quantum Leap)



Recorded eight years before Blakey's death in 1990, the jazz Messengers are captured on tape in a red-hot set for what looks like a TV program called *The Jazz Life*. It's no surprise that band is on fire, as it consists of Wynton Marsalis (trumpet), Branford Marsalis (alto sax), Donald Brown (piano), Billy Pierce (tenor sax) and Charles Fambrough (bass). The title is misleading however, as Blakey's set was actually recorded at Seventh Avenue South. A 30-minute set from saxophonist Johnny Griffin that was recorded at the Village Vanguard for the same TV program is not credited anywhere on the packaging, nor is his backing band who drive Griffin's smoking sax solos to new heights with every number. Despite the poor marketing decision, the musicianship is grade A and a solid choice for jazz fans in search of good DVDs from the genre.

Fela Kuti
Music Is the Weapon
 (Barclay)



This 1982 documentary is really two stories: the life and times of Fela Anikulapo Kuti and that of his native Nigeria. Through narration and his own words, Fela describes the problems that plague the country and his bid to become its next president. Filmed in Lagos, there is some excellent footage from Fela's nightclub ("The Shrine"), where he performs "Army Arrangement," "Power Show," "ITT" and several others. Outspoken and fiercely political, his home was raided twice in a period of five years. Fela's wives were raped and beaten, his mother killed and he was sent to prison. Much loved by his people, Fela fought for his political ideals until the end of his life, when he died of Aids in 1997. The DVD features versions in both English and French, each with exclusive scenes that are worth checking out.

Britney Spears
In the Zone
 (Zomba/Jive)



The release date for this double-disc set was pushed back several times in order to add more features and as a result, there's plenty to watch here. The ABC Special is exactly what was seen on network television, minus commercials of course. Concert sequences are interwoven with interview clips and plenty of fashion photos. Of course most of the show is lip-synched, but at this point, does anyone really care? Extras include two live performances from MTV's TRL, music videos for "Me Against the Music" (with Madonna) and "Toxic," an interview about the making of *In the Zone*, a photo gallery and a second disc of extra tracks and remixes.