



supernatural. In the two-part Season 6 opener, Willow and the gang use magic to bring the Slayer back to life, but she isn't as it turns out, all that happy to be back. While Sarah Michelle Geller deals with her ambivalence, three geeks from school become "super villains" who fumble and bumble their plans to kill the Slayer one final time. Add to this her dysfunctional relationship with Spike the reformed vampire, the blossoming relationship between Willow and her girlfriend Tara, a couple of gruesome murders, an aborted wedding ceremony and vengeful demons and witches and you've got one helluva season.

A high point comes early in Episode 7—the infamous musical episode, "Once More With Feeling." Unlike other shows that feel compelled to use a musical episode to fill up a week, the songs of "...Feeling" actually served as a pivotal plot device that sent the remainder of the season off in a different direction with dire consequences. Originally nominated for an Emmy, it was inadvertently left off the ballot, quashing any chance at industry recognition. If Fox was smart, they'll release "Once More With Feeling" as a single disc for those unwilling to purchase the box set. Fans will enjoy the featurettes, karaoke music videos and behind-the-scenes footage included as some of the bonus goodies. Most of all, they'll appreciate the clever writing and bad puns that had become a hallmark of the show to hold them over until October when the seventh and final season becomes available.



**World Tour 1966:
The Home Movies**
(Highway 61)

The tour in question is Bob Dylan's European tour that was also his first with an electric band—the same tour that the "Royal Albert Hall" recordings came from. Mickey Jones was the drummer on the tour—the position that Levon Helm would soon occupy as the skins man for The Band.

Jones is "interviewed" by his buddy about his career and clips taken with his 8mm camera are segued in. My first reaction was to run from the tacky presentation, but I'm glad I didn't because Mickey has a pretty good story. Eight years with Trini Lopez, where he hung out with everyone, including the Beatles. Three years

with Johnny Rivers during his biggest hits period. Approached by Bob Dylan to play in his band, he goes on a history-making tour, but before he does, he introduces Bob to Otis Redding who agrees to record "Just Like A Woman." Two years with Dylan, then he joins Kenny Rogers And The First Edition for ten. Quits the music business and becomes a successful character actor in Hollywood (Home Improvement, Sling Blade).

We see home movies of the musicians, sightseeing trips and yes, even Bob himself, while a Dylan cover band cranks out music in the background. It's low budget and silly in places, but in the end this guy has great stories and that makes it entirely worth watching.



**Jazz Legends:
Roy Ayers**
(MVD)

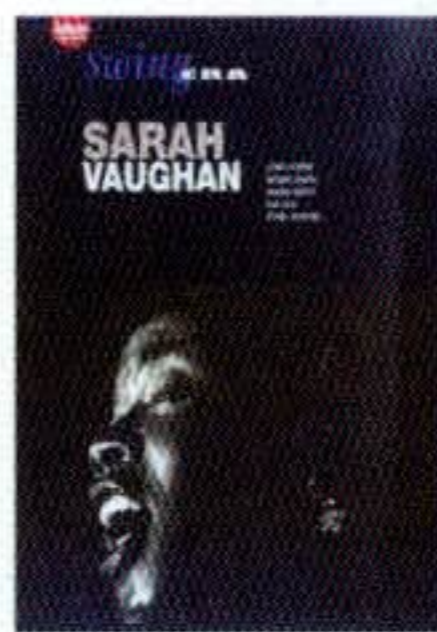
A major influence in the world of acid jazz, vibesman Roy Ayers reprises several of his hits from the early '70s in this live performance recorded at England's Brewhouse Theater in 1992. Ayers and the rest of his quintet perform "Mystic Voyage," "Everybody Loves The Sunshine," and five others, including a tribute to Miles Davis, featuring Ayers' use of a synthesizer to simulate Miles' muted trumpet style on vibes. The licks are particularly tasty on "Hot," then the disc ends abruptly, even though it's obvious the performance wasn't over yet. Nevertheless, there's over 60 minutes of music that will delight fans of Ayers' work, as well of those interested in jazz funk fusion.



**Everything But
the Girl**
*Like the Deserts Miss
the Rain*
(Atlantic)

Does anyone remember the days when EBTG was a twee neo-folk act? How about Tracy Thorn's solo recordings or the Marine Girls? If you don't, no biggie, because all that really matters is what Tracy and partner Ben Watt have been up to for the last ten years and that is, crafting a series of elegant pop albums that along with many remixes, have impacted both clubs and radio for the better and scored legions of fans along the way.

...Deserts collects nine promotional videos, most of which are devoid of special effects and instead rely on simple narrative to complement the music. As they get older, the duo undergo some radical changes in appearance, getting more glamorous as their popularity increases. Three live performances from 1999 are included and prove that EBTG can translate their intimate studio work to the big stage with ease. Another three demo tracks act as the soundtrack to a large photo gallery/slide show and an interactive feature allows one to "remix" a video from the comfort of the couch. Whether you watch this disc for the visuals or just for the music, it's difficult to not be charmed by the unassuming pair who eschew pop star posturing for a refreshing naturalness both at home or in front of the camera.



**Swing Era:
Sarah Vaughan**
(idem/MVD)

Although the divine Ms. Vaughan gets top billing and her photo on the cover, her contributions to this set amount to only around 25% of the content. Her five numbers are largely lip-synched "live" performances from the '40s, but are a treat to watch anyway, thanks to her incredible voice and because a significant moment in the history of jazz is captured here.

The rest of the material is also historically ripe, with appearances from a very young Lena Horne, Bessie Smith, Mamie Smith, Ida Cox, Ethel Waters with Count Basie and nine (rare) songs from The International Sweethearts Of Rhythm, featuring singer Anna Mae Winburn and trumpeter Tiny Davis. If you love jazz and blues from the swing era or have any interest in classic female vocalists, you'll want to pick this one up and relive the memories.



Slacker
(The Criterion
Collection)

My girlfriend hated this movie. She's a writer and entrepreneur who runs a successful software company and often devotes large chunks of her evenings and weekends to the business. The word 'slacker' is not in her vocabulary, so watching the film's parade of unem-