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Sinatra's '58 TV series among the new DVDs

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Some of the best concerts happening this week aren't at theaters but at your local video store, newly out on DVD.

- Three icons of 20th-century pop collaborate on the hour-long **"The Frank Sinatra Show - High Hopes"** (Music Video Distributors). His partners in music and rhyme - the inestimable Bing Crosby and Dean Martin, plus song and dance gal Mitzi Gaynor - were all major movie musical stars when this episode of Sinatra's short-lived TV series was done in 1958.

The picture quality is grainy and strictly black and white, and the production values are primitive. But the consistent, front-row-center view fits the nightclubby style of the show, featuring special material by lyricist Sammy Cahn, the flirtatious interplay of the guests on "Dancing Cheek To Cheek," a musical tribute to Jimmy Durante (and a surprise appearance by guess who) and some spectacular soloing by Sinatra on "Angel Eyes" and "The Lady Is a Tramp."

Oh, and those Timex watch commercials with John Cameron Swayze are a stitch.

- The film version of the first great all-star rock charity concert, **"The Concert for Bangladesh - George Harrison and Friends,"** is much improved in its DVD debut on Rhino.

The overly saturated color has been digitally tamed, and the crisp, multichannel sound mix (Dolby Digital and DTS options) helps you pick apart the mess of talents crowded on the Madison Square Garden stage on Aug. 1, 1971.

Among 'em are Eric Clapton on guitar, Billy Preston on organ (and almost stealing the show with "That's the Way God Planned It") and Leon Russell on piano, backing Harrison as he does his first live renderings of solo hits like "My Sweet Lord" and the Beatles gems "Here Comes the Sun" and "Something."

Oh, and let's not forget the major comeback appearance by Bob Dylan, sincerely singing "Blowin' in the Wind" and "Just Like a Woman" with help from his friends. A bonus disc adds previously unseen performances and a documentary.

- Responding to the snub of Third World talents by bookers for this summer's African relief Live 8 super concerts, Peter Gabriel put together a parallel event at the Eden Project in Cornwall, England. Likewise overlooked in MTV and AOL's coverage, the event is ours to belatedly appreciate as **"Live 8 at Eden - Africa Calling"** (Rhino).

The setting itself is incredibly fanciful, the production values are first-rate and the music exceptional - Youssou N'Dour, Angelique Kidjo, Kanda Bongo Man, the hot new East African rapper Emmanuel Jal and the incredible fado singer Mariza, among others. A true cultural celebration.

- Like your music rootsy and rocking? John Hiatt turns the TV studio into one sweet honky-tonk, Dwight Yoakam and friends take us to big-hat country, and the Texas Tornados (including Flaco Jimenez, Freddy Fender and the late Doug Sahm) celebrate conjunto border rock in high style on **"Live From Austin TX."** The DVD series, out

Tuesday on the New West label, packages performances from the TV show "Austin City Limits" (circa 1988 to '93) in 80-minute segments.

The discs are way more satisfying, with hot DTS surround mixes really throwing you into the action.

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