

COMPACT

Nowadays, music geeks can't just browse the CD racks to stay on top of new releases. They have to mosey on over and check out the DVDs too if they really want to be up to date. Here are a few of the more recent titles waiting to be discovered.



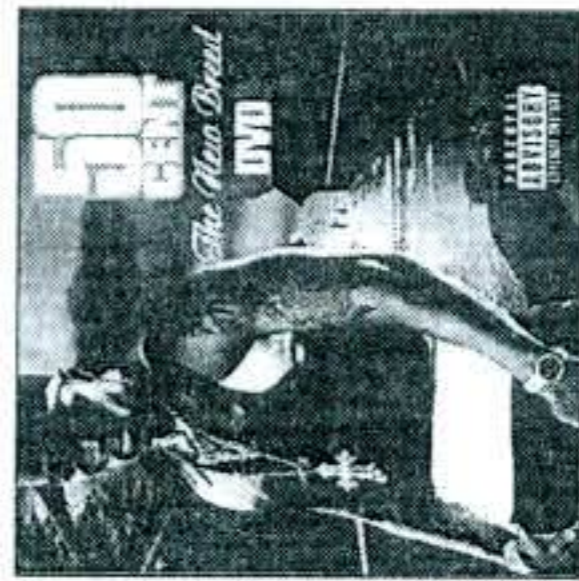
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50 Cent

The New Breed Shady / Universal

"It's a metaphor for change," explains gangsta-rap phenom Curtis Jackson of his nom du hip-hop 50 Cent. Well, so he says. Despite that, however — and despite the title of this release — there's not much novelty to be found on the DVD portion of *The New Breed*. This two-



hour disc, apparently pushed to market in the wake of 50 Cent's sudden chart-busting success, is your standard collection of video clips, behind-the-scenes documentaries, interview snippets and live footage (which is memorable only for the presence of 50's mentor Eminem). The three-track CD EP included offers two new cuts and a remix of 8 *Mile Road*, but the rest of *The New Breed* is the same old song and dance.

★★★ out of ★★★★★

Judas Priest

Live in London SPV / Fusion III

and Pennywise, and newbies like Millencolin, Hot Water Music, (International) Noise Conspiracy and Division of Laura Lee. Finally, it includes a good documentary on the label, live footage of Bad Religion and Bouncing Souls and a behind-the-scenes segment on a Pennywise video shoot. Our favourite feature? The subtitles. Especially when Rancid's Tim Armstrong is on the mic.

★★★★

Butthole Surfers

Blind Eye Sees All MVD / Koch

"Hi, y'all. I'm Gibby. This is Detroit. It's March 2. It's cold as f—ing s—t. I really don't know what else to say." So remarks Butthole Surfers ringleader Gibby Haynes, standing outside on a crisp Michigan day in 1991. Nothing odd about that — except that he's naked and has a drawing of a penis taped over his crotch. Then again, for the Surfers, that's likely an average day. This decently shot (but hopelessly edited) disc captures two average nights of the band onstage, bashing out twisted drug-punk oldies like *Hey, Cowboy Bob*, *Mexican Caravan* and *The Shah Sleeps in Lee Harvey's Grave* during club gigs in Detroit. There are also some pictures and live audio, but the biggest jollies come from Gibby's demented, stream-of-unconsciousness interview segments — conducted in bed with the rest of the band. We don't even want to know who's wearing what, y'all.

★★★★

Black Sabbath

Never Say Die Sanctuary / EMI

As far as we're concerned, the only lingering benefits from *The Osbournes* are spinoff releases like this. *Never Say Die* unearths an hour-long Black Sabbath gig from their 1978 tour, when the band was ironically on the verge of implosion. And no wonder — ego-maniacal guitarist Tony Iommi makes Ozzy sing from stage left for the hour-long set.

cover of The Band's *Bessie Smith* and a gorgeous encore of *Tennessee Waltz*. Don't know why any fan wouldn't enjoy it.

★★★★1/2

Rod Stewart

It Had to Be You ... The Great American Songbook J / BMG

From Rod the Mod to Rod the Sod. Sandpaper-voiced rooster Stewart revisits his old days — and unveils his new incarnation as a crooner — on this DVD version of a recent TV special. Which makes for a rather schizophrenic program, what with Rod and band switching back and forth from casual clothes to tuxes and trying to navigate a set list that includes *Forever Young*, *Hot Legs*, *Maggie May*, *The Nearness of You* and *They Can't Take That Away From Me*. Still, while Rod ain't getting any younger, his voice is still holding up nicely. Just like his hair. See for yourself: A multi-angle feature on the disc allows you to watch certain songs from one of several cameras.

★★★★1/2



there's not one second of GNR music in the hour-long feature. After all, along with those shrinks, Axl knows a few good lawyers.

★★★

Shane MacGowan

If I Should Fall From Grace Pop Twist / MVD

Wanna give up the bottle without all the meetings and higher powers? Just plunk yourself down with this thoroughly engrossing, excellently produced warts-and-all TV doc on the life of Pogues singer Shane MacGowan. In less than two hours, you'll watch him devolve from a scrappy young punk with literary aspirations into a bloated, dissolute, incomprehensible drunkard who seems to be shedding teeth as fast as brain cells. Along the way, some great archival footage — including live clips and videos for chestnuts like *Dirty Old Town* and *Fairytale of New York* — help raise the spirits. But after watching Shane sit in the rubble of his flat and babble conspiracy theories — or worse, sit alone plunking a piano in a dingy pub — you'll be off the sauce for good.

★★★★

Captain Beefheart

Some YoYo Stuff MVD

There aren't too many DVDs around that are worth almost a dollar a minute — but if you're a fan of dada-blues icon Captain Beefheart, *Some YoYo Stuff* will justify that price. Shot in 1993 — a decade after the singer born Don Van Vliet gave up music for painting — this 13-minute black-and-white short juxtaposes shots of Van Vliet's art, clips of his mother and director David Lynch, and a few audio reminiscences from the Captain himself, speaking in a craggy voice that quivers with age but hasn't lost its magnetism. If you're a Beefheart completist (and is there any other kind of Beefheart fan?), it's essential at any price.

★★★★

They Might Be Giants

Direct From Brooklyn Ryko / Outside

John Flansburgh and John Linnell have long been one of the most quirky and creative duos in alternative pop — think Barenaked Ladies with a higher IQ and a darker wit. Naturally, their videos are cut from the same oddball cloth. *Direct From*