# COMPACT

# **The Guess Who Running Back** Thru Canada ViK / BMG

If your Christmas list includes a local friend or relative who digs music and is between 40 and 60, your holiday shopping is a snap. Just hit the video store and pick up The Guess Who's Running

Back Thru Canada DVD. The main event is the band's memorable storm-lashed concert at CanWest Global Park in 2000. But along with the powerful 16-song gig (which originally aired on CBC), you get five bonus tunes that didn't make the initial cut, one song from the tour's opening show in Newfoundland, a

20-minute interview with Burton Cummings and Randy Bachman, and rehearsal footage. On second thought, better buy two copies once you get a load of the way these old guys can still kick out the jams, you're gonna be sorry you don't have one for yourself.

**★★★★1/2** 

# The Who Live at the Isle of Wight Festival 1970 Eagle Rock / EMI Live in Boston

Not all Who albums are created equal. Neither are all Who DVDs especially not these two. Live at the Isle of Wight and Live in Boston sit at opposite ends of the spectrum. The former captures the original band in full, breathtaking flight at a U.K. rock festival, blasting through a fiery 85-minute set that includes most of their thenlatest album Tommy. Despite the amateurish production, if you're a Who fan — and who isn't? — it's essential. Which is

# Live Stock

# **Guess Who top list of new concert DVDs**

more than we can say for *Live in Boston*, filmed in 2002 just weeks after the drug-fuelled death of bassist John Entwistle. You'd think watching Pete Townshend and Roger Daltrey carry on in the wake of tragedy would be moving. But mostly it's just depress-

ing — like watching two escaped lifers shackled together on a raft, paddling like hell but going in circles. Hearing them plod through a sluggish set with a new bassist is bad enough; hearing them snipe at each other in the interviews (Roger's first thought at John's death: "F—! I'm stuck with the miserable one!") is worse. We still have hopes for a new Who album; DVDs, not so much.

Isle of Wight: ★★★★ Boston: ★

**STERDAN** 



spends a mildly amusing hour hanging out in his Hollywood mansion, playing standup comic on an Australian lecture tour, cavorting with celebs and models, hyping his wares and jabbering about his favourite subject: Himself.

**Christina Aguilera** Stripped: Live in the U.K. RCA / BMG

No, it doesn't quite live up to the title. But judging by the S&M stage set and outfits Xtina seems to be favouring on this live DVD, it won't be long. If you buy this for your kid, you're a sad excuse for a parent. If you buy it for yourself, you're just sad.

**David Bowie** A Reality Tour ISO / Sonv

The Thin White Duke is a benevolent monarch in this stylish 2003 live set, romping through a generous 30-song set that reaches from Ziggy Stardust to New Killer Star. No major extras, but after a 150minute show, who really needs an **★★★1/2** 

Steve Earle / The Flatlanders /

**Susan Tedeschi** Live From Austin, Texas **New West / Sony** 

That title should read Live From Austin City Limits. Each of these excellent DVDs has a full hour-plus set that was shot and edited down for the long-running music show. And each entry in this new series is a sure-fire winner with great performances and unaired footage. Whether you start with a raucous 1986 set from a young Steve Earle, a folksy 2002 gig by local heroes The Flatlanders, or an eye-opening 2003 gig by funky blueswoman Susan Tedeschi, this is the next best thing to being there.

Each: ★★★★1/2

**Yeah Yeah Yeahs Tell Me What Rockers** to Swallow **Interscope / Universal** 

Wondering what all the fuss over Yeah Yeah Yeahs is about? Check out this live DVD and you'll know. Bizarro singer Karen O is a mesmerizing combination of Iggy Pop, Patti Smith, Courtney Love, P.J. Harvey and a kid on a sugar high, while the guitar-and-drums band rock way harder than one nerd and a goth oughta. Plenty of extras including videos, backstage footage and fan interviews.

**Curtis Mayfield** Live at Ronnie Scott's **Sanctuary / EMI** 

The silken-voiced '70s soul legend plays an hour of classics like People Get Ready, Pusherman and Freddie's Dead at a British club in 1988, during his tragically brief comeback. Sadly, Superfly isn't on the set list, but an interview by Paul Weller is decent consolation.

George **Thorogood** 

**30th Anniversary Tour Eagle Vision / EMI** 

"I know I'm fulla s—t, but I'm having a good time," says the Delaware Destroyer. We couldn't put it better. At a recent U.K. gig, Thorogood plows through the bluedecades, from Move it on Over to One Bourbon, One Scotch and One Beer. But damned if he doesn't do it with the vitality of a man half his age. He isn't the only one having a

- DS

Devo

# Live in the Land of the Rising Sun Sick / MVD

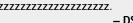
Talk about devolution. Older, grayer and thicker around the middle, the once-mighty Spuds tarnish their legacy by squeezing back into those yellow jumpsuits and flowerpot hats for a 2003 tour of Japan, where they robotically pump out their hits like trained seals. Please, boys, stop before you embarrass yourselves. Oops, too late.

# **Jefferson Airplane** Fly Jefferson Airplane **The Doors** Live in Europe: 1968 **Eagle Vision / EMI**

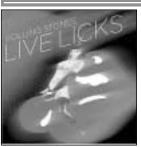
Two flashback-inducing sets for the hippie in your household. Fly Jefferson Airplane is a decent documentary on the seminal psychedelic San Franciscans, with a slew of interviews, archival footage and full performances of classics like White Rabbit and Somebody to Love. The Doors' Live in Europe is a spottier affair, with assorted TV and live versions of chestnuts like When the Music's Over, Light My Fire and Hello, I Love You, fleshed out with interview snippets and tales of Morrisonian excess from tourmates Grace Slick and Paul

Airplane: ★★★ Doors: ★★★

**Tangerine Dream** Live in America / 1992 **Eagle Vision / EMI** 







# **Rolling Stones Live Licks** Virgin / EMI

We call shenanigans! Since the early '90s, the Stones have stuck to the same game plan — put out a studio album, do a world tour, put out a live album. But with the twodisc Live Licks - their eighth concert release - Mick, Keef and the lads are getting ahead of themselves. And pushing their luck. Live Licks, taped on their last tour, follows 2002's Forty Licks best-of and 1998's live set No Security, making it the third compilation since their last studio disc — 1997's *Bridges to* Babylon, if you remember that far back. OK, the performances on this 23-song set are cracking, the set list has left-field entries like *Monkey* Man and Worried About You, and the production is vibrant, with Keith and Ron's slashing guitars sharply separated in the mix. But really, how many live versions of Satisfaction and Brown Sugar do they expect us to buy? Get back to the studio, boys - and near as we can tell, you owe us a double album.

COVERS

#### Rod Stewart Stardust ... The Great American Songbook III J/BMG

- DS

Once was OK. Twice was plenty. But three volumes of Rod Stewart crooning Tin Pan Alley standards is more than anyone should be forced to endure. For those who care, this time out, the raspy old rooster transforms another 14 classics including Embraceable You, Blue Moon, 'S Wonderful, I Can't Get Started, Night and Day and (why, Lord, why?) What a Wonderful World — into cocktail-jazz cheese so bland it would bore your granny. Even worse, he drags guests like Eric Clapton, Stevie Wonder, Bette Midler and Dolly Parton down with him. Somebody stop him before he records again — or, even worse, discovers Billy Strayhorn.

# **A Perfect Circle Emotive** Virgin / EMI

There is something to be said for putting your own stamp on covers instead of blindly Xeroxing other people's songs. There is, on the other hand, little to be said for simply taking a random bunch of oldies — John Lennon's *Imagine*, Marvin Gaye's What's Going On, Fear's

# **The Donnas** Gold Medal **Atlantic / Warner**

Thank heaven for bad girls 'cause bad girls get better every day. At least, The Donnas do.

On their sixth album and second major-label release, these California punkettes trade in their Ramones shirts, buy some old Stones albums and get in touch with their inner guitar-rawk goddesses. Leaner, cleaner and



Sure, they still "just want to get you undressed." But instead of just kneeing you in the crotch and ripping off your clothes, Brett Anderson and co. shimmy up beside you, breathe huskily in your ear and talk you out of your trousers — before kicking you out of bed and asking "is that all you've got for me?" Ouch. It doesn't get much better — or badder — than that.

Wish we were as impressed with the DualDisc technology utilized on Gold Medal. It's the newest music biz gimmick — CD tracks on one side of a disc, DVD content on the other — but if this set was anything to go by, it's a long way from perfected. The thicker-thannormal disc clattered annnoyingly in our player, skipped at the slightest touch, crashed our computer — and most of the CD's final track was missing. According to the record label, the initial run of defective discs had been recalled and replaced in stores. Still, it's a long way the Gold Medal performance we had in mind.

 $\star\star\star$ 1/2 out of  $\star\star\star\star\star$ 

- Darryl Sterdan



# Willie Nelson It Always Will Be **Lost Highway / Universal**

Over the past few years, Willie Nelson has made a blues album, a kids' album, and umpteen self-congratulatory live, duet and tribute discs with an endless string of guests. With It Always Will Be, though, he's made another kind of album — one

you might want to hear more than once.

On this refreshing 14-song outing, the Red-Headed Stranger takes the reins of his career again, assembling and delivering a strong slate of original songs and covers. Willie dishes up some honkytonk frivolity on I Didn't Come Here (and I Ain't Leavin'), gently unwraps the simply pretty balladry of the title cut, claims Tom Waits' Picture in a Frame as his own, gets jazzy on a couple of cuts (including a duet with Norah Jones), shares a slice of bittersweet heartache with Lucinda Williams and even makes a Toby Keith song sound good.

And by the end of it, he's made his strongest, least forced album since 1998's Teatro. Not that that's not saying much, of course.

\*\*\*1/2 out of \*\*\*\*

- Darryl Sterdan

Let's Have a War, Nick Lowe's Peace, Love and Understanding, Devo's Freedom of Choice, Black Flag's Gimme Gimme — and converting them all into an identical-sounding batch of creepy, sub-Mansonesque goth-metal dirges. - DS

HIP-HOP

# R. Kelly & Jay-Z **Unfinished Business Island Def Jam / Universal**

Who says history never repeats? In 2002, horndog balladeer R. Kelly and rap kingpin Jay-Z tried to marry



ignored Best of Both Worlds to see the whole affair implode when Kelly was hit with a raft of sex crime charges. Now, apparently not knowing when to leave well enough alone, they've issued this equally underwhelming followup — which

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actually seems to consist of leftovers from the original sessions, judging by the personnel and recording data. Even better, their joint tour quickly collapsed into violence and jealousy, with Kelly suing Jay for \$75 million after being pepper-sprayed and booted off the bill. "Make up to break up, that's all we do," croons Kelly here with remarkable insight. Guess that means a threepeat is only a matter of time.

# 2Pac Live **Death Row / Koch**

Well, at least we know Suge Knight has a sense of irony.

- DS

SOUNDTRACK



# Team America: **World Police Various Artists** Atlantic / Warner

If Night Ranger did the soundtrack to a Jerry Bruckheimer movie, it couldn't be any more hilarious and over the top than this score to the South Park duo's puppet action parody. Except that Trey Parker and Matt Stone are actually trying to make you laugh with spoofish songs like the show-tuney Everyone Has AIDS, the fist-pumping anthem America, F\*\*k Yeah, the power ballad Only a Woman and Kim Jong Il's Elton Johnish lament I'm So Ronery.

- DS

- DS

UNDERGROUND

#### The Catheters Howling ... It Grows and Grows!!! Sub Pop / Outside

If Mudhoney were raised by wolves, their guitars couldn't snarl any fiercer, their drums couldn't bash any harder, their singer couldn't bray any louder — and their CDs couldn't be any more feral and fearsome than the sophomore set from these Seattle garage-punks.

**★★★1/2** 

### **The Thermals** F—ing A **Sub Pop / Outside**

"This is how we go; soft and slowly," claim The Thermals. Liars. The choppy distorto-punk and yawping emo vocals of this searing sophomore album tell the real story. And they make *F—king A* a disc that lives up to its title.

**★★★1/2** – DS

# Top Tens

# Pop Singles

1. AWAKE IN A DREAM Kalan Porter 2. YEAH! 3. LET'S GET IT STARTED **Black Eyed Peas** 

4. I BELIEVE 5. AMERICAN IDIOT **Green Day** 6. BALLA BABY Chingy 7. COME CLEAN **Hilary Duff** 8. EVERYTIME **Britney Spears** 

9. AMAZING George Michael 10. I BELIEVE Diana DeGarmo

Source: Nielsen Broadcast Data Systems

#### Local Best-Sellers

1. CHUCK

2. STARDUST ... GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK VOLUME III **Rod Stewart** 

3. HILARY DUFF **Hilary Duff** 4. WORDS & MUSIC John Mellencamp 5. CONFESSIONS Usher

6. AMERICAN IDIOT Green Day 7. MIRACLE Celine Dion

8. FUTURES

9. THE CHRONICLES OF LIFE & DEATH Good Charlotte

Jimmy Eat World

10. GENIUS LOVES COMPANY Ray Charles

Source: Nielsen SoundScan Canada

# Country Singles

1. IN A REAL LOVE Phil Vassar 2. I HATE EVERYTHING George Strait Sara Evans

3. SUDS IN THE BUCKET 4. THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

**Brooks & Dunn** 5. MR. MOM Lonestar 6. STAYS IN MEXICO **Toby Keith** 

7. NOTHING ON BUT THE RADIO Gary Allan

8. THE WOMAN IN YOU

Kenny Chesney 9. DAYS GO BY Keith Urban 10. BACK WHEN Tim McGraw

Source: Billboard Online

#### Music Videos

1. WORDS & MUSIC: GREATEST HITS

2. PHINALLY PHAMOUS Lil Wyte 3. DISCLAIMER II Seether 4. STREETS IS WATCHING Jay-Z

5. A REALITY TOUR **David Bowie** 

6. MIRACLE **Celine Dion** 7. PENSANDO EN TI K-Pas de la Sierra

8. ALPHA & OMEGA **Bizzy Bone** 

9. NORTENAS FAMOASA Los Tigres del Norte

10. STRIPPED: LIVE IN THE U.K. Christina Aguilera

Source: Billboard Online

# Underground

1. ANTICS Interpol 2. SPOOKED Robyn Hitchcock 3. DENTS & SHELLS Richard Buckner

4. LEVIATHAN Mastodon 5. UNIVERSAL AUDIO The Delgados

6. JIMSON WEED Nathan 7. THE WAKING HOUR David Francey

8. NEW ROMAN TIMES Camper Van Beethoven 9. WET FROM BIRTH The Faint

10. FRANK BLACK FRANCIS Frank Black

Source: UMFM 101.5