

values (un-nuanced lighting, slightly hollow sound), this version—presented in PCM stereo—offers a jolly good time. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (J. Reed)

Devo: Live in the Land of the Rising Sun ★★

(2004) 75 min. DVD: \$14.95. Music Video Distributors (avail. from most distributors). Color cover.



Ah, the magic of cut and paste: with only a few minor changes, my earlier review of *Devo Live (VL-7/04)* is perfectly apropos here. Reunited for a 2003 concert in Japan, *Devo: Live in the Land of the Rising Sun* finds the four-piece '80s New Wave electronic pop/novelty band fronted by Mark Mothersbaugh (who went on to compose theme music for such Nickelodeon staples as *Rugrats*) performing a 13-song set dressed in their signature yellow jumpsuits (which are later torn away to reveal black shirts/shorts). The band serves up six tunes from their 1978 debut *Q: Are We Not Men? A: We Are Devo!*, including the classic, stripped-bare monotone version of the Rolling Stones' "Satisfaction," as well as cult favorites "Mongoloid," "Uncontrollable Urge," "Gut Feeling," and "Come Back Jonee." More likely to be recognized by most are the commercial breakthrough hits "Whip It" and "Girl U Want," along with "Gates of Steel" and the title track off 1980's *Freedom of Choice*. There are two crucial differences between *Devo Live* and this release, however: the Dolby Digital 5.1 sound is more muddled here and the tracks are separated by irritating and largely self-indulgent interview clips/press briefings (band member Gerald Casale's ramblings about his earlier sexual adventures in Japan are particularly tedious, although his observation that "we have a retarded cowboy running our country" will resonate with approximately 48% of American viewers). DVD extras include the 12-minute featurette "Devo Goes to Japan," a six-minute featurette on drummer David Kendrick, and a four-minute 1980 clip of Devo performing "Gut Feeling" that is more lively (and better sounding) than the 2003 concert version presented here. Optional, at best. Aud: P. (R. Pitman)

The Diary of Alicia Keys ★★

(2004) 83 min. DVD: \$14.98. Red Distribution (avail. from most distributors). Color cover.



Don't expect to hear much of Alicia Keys' music on *The Diary of Alicia Keys*, a DVD talk-fest that is essentially a video journal of the diva's recent travels, informed with a lot of biographical detail (told in Keys' own words) and insights about her career (among other things, we learn the star was born into a tough New York City neighborhood, and

attended a performing arts school that stressed multi-disciplinary learning). Individual chapters on the disc focus on the making of Keys' video for "Girlfriend," the fun of combining a live band with deejay mixes onstage, the work involved in sorting out a stage show, and so on. Viewers also get glimpses of Keys' visits to Africa, the Middle East, and various parts of the U.S. Given the dearth of music, this docu-profile is pretty much optional for all but the Grammy-winning Keys' most devoted fans. Aud: P. (T. Keogh)

Fly Jefferson Airplane ★★1/2

(2004) 81 min. DVD: \$19.98. Eagle Vision (avail. from most distributors). Color cover.



One critic after hearing '60s psychedelic rock icons Jefferson Airplane performing at the Monterey Jazz Festival (not the Monterey Pop Festival, where they also played) described their sound as that of a "mule kicking down a barn door." Or, as a band member puts it in this retrospective documentary featuring new interviews and full-length archival performances of 13 songs, they were "six musicians in search of an arrangement." Many baby boomers remember that the San Francisco-based group was fronted by photogenic (and hallucinogenic) lead singers Grace Slick and Marty Balin, and may well still own a weathered copy of *Surrealistic Pillow*, but even the band's "best-of" compilation is humorously titled *The Worst of Jefferson Airplane*, and most folks can only name the two unquestionable mega-hits from their oeuvre, "White Rabbit" and "Somebody to Love." And, before the hate e-mail campaign starts, let me add that "It's No Secret," "Crown of Creation," and "Volunteers" (all included here) are, of course, noteworthy tunes (although not necessarily for musical reasons). Featuring performances from the Monterey Pop Festival, *Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour* (with Slick singing "Crown of Creation" in blackface), a Perry Como special (!), promo films, and the 1996 induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, along with a caterwauling Manhattan rooftop rendition of "House of Prouel Corners" unexceptionally filmed by New Wave French auteur Jean-Luc Godard, *Fly Jefferson Airplane* will certainly appeal to fans, but it's—much like the band itself—a scattershot effort. DVD extras include the option to play the musical cuts without the interview filler, and a half-hour's worth of bonus interview footage. Optional. Aud: P. (R. Pitman)

Godsmack: Changes ★★1/2

(2004) 105 min. DVD: \$19.98. Universal Music & Video (avail. from most distributors). Color cover.

Hey, now here's something completely new and different: a DVD about a rock band on the road. You know, one of those documentaries that brings us intimately close to the

musicians, showing them backstage, at sound check, in hotel rooms, in taxis, and on the street, telling us all about their tattoos and their devotion to the fans in language liberally peppered with profanity...and all of this in addition to oodles of real concert footage! Huh. Unless, of course, you happen to be a Godsmack fan, in which case this item will be sheer manna from Heaven (or maybe Hell, considering the content of most hard rock-headbanger music). To be fair, Godsmack is a perfectly good example of the genre, with lead singer Sully Erna prowling the stage and delivering his utterly humorless songs in a voice of doom while the band lays down thick slabs of sonic sludge behind him (in the words of one French Canadian follower, "le group sonne comme une tonne de briques"!); Godsmack doesn't seem to be as angry as Metallica (with whom the band has toured extensively), and they're not as nutso nihilistic as, say, Slayer; rather, they're simply good musicians (especially drummer Shannon Larkin, who together with briefly-drumming Erna serves up a percussion smack-down that is one of the high points) and decent guys (Erna's devotion to his young daughter is genuinely touching). What's more, the concert segments look and sound great (with DTS and stereo sound options), as the band serves up 13 songs (nearly half off their 2003 release *Faceless*). A strong optional purchase. Aud: P. (S. Graham)



The Grateful Dead Movie ★★1/2

(1977) 131 min. Rated: PG. DVD: \$29.95. Monterey Video (avail. from most distributors). Color cover. ISBN: 1-56994-239-0.



Captured during a five-night stand at San Francisco's Winterland in 1974, the Grateful Dead are in fine form playing to sizable crowds through an elaborate sound system that literally looks like a huge wall. Late band leader Jerry Garcia, looking fit (with not a gray hair in sight), co-directed this lengthy film (with Leon Gast, most recently celebrated for his fantastic documentary *When We Were Kings*), which is as much about the fan scene surrounding Grateful Dead shows as it is the music itself (sometimes that sociological angle is interesting and sometimes it isn't, especially when several of the group's best performances are interrupted by mundane footage of happy hippies milling about Winterland's lobby). Highlights include great renditions of "Eyes of the World," "Morning Dew," and "U.S. Blues," and longtime fans will appreciate seeing essential Dead collaborators Keith and Donna Godcheaux onstage. Presented in newly remastered Dolby Digital 5.1 and stereo, DVD