

Live From Bonnaroo 2004

Various Artists
Sanctuary | EMI

Music festival season is almost here. And nothing gets us in the mood better than the annual two-disc live DVD from the jam-oriented *Bonnaroo* festival in Tennessee. This third instalment has superbly shot, impeccably mixed performances from 30 artists. You've got perennials like The Dead and Trey Anastasio, troubadours like Ani DiFranco and Gillian Welch, rootsy rockers like Kings of Leon and My Morning Jacket, and even oddballs Primus, Ween and the Tokyo Ska Paradise Orchestra. One quibble: The set is divided into four parts, each with the same beginning and end credits. That's way too much repetition for a festival this unique.

★★★★



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The Dwarves

F— You Up
& Get Live
MVD | Koch

Sleaze-punk icons The Dwarves — fronted as always by the bullet-headed Blag Dahlia and wrestling-masked guitar exhibitionist HeWhoCanNotBeNamed — manage to keep it together long enough to deliver a 19-song live set at a New York City dive. The show covers everything from oldies like *Back Seat of My Car*, *Detention Girl* and *Astro Boy* to poppier recent fare like

Music to your eyes

The latest rock DVDs

Over You. And just to add a little more band for the buck, the boys include six recent videos with plenty of pneumatic, under-dressed wimmin.

★★★



Jethro Tull Nothing is Easy: Live at the Isle of Wight 1970

Eagle Rock | EMI

There's a fine line between ambitious and trying too hard. Sometimes it's hard to tell where this documentary belongs. *Nothing is Easy: Live at the Isle of Wight 1970* is centred around a solidly entertaining seven-song set by Ian Anderson and prog-rock outfit Jethro Tull shot at the British equivalent of Woodstock. Trouble is, filmmaker Murray Lerner wants to be more than just a live video. So between every song, he inserts recently shot reminiscences from Anderson and leftover footage of ill-behaved hippies — all in a rather forced and unnecessary bid to contextualize, dramatize and generally aggrandize their short set into something more significant than it actually was. Really, watching Anderson in his prime — perched on one leg, breathing fire through his flute, and spurring the band through classics like *My God* — is all the drama you need.

★★★1/2



Lou Reed Spanish Fly: Live in Spain Sanctuary | EMI

Believe it or not, there was a time when Lou Reed was one of the most controversial and engaging artists in rock. Sadly, you'd never know it from his tepid new live DVD *Spanish Fly: Live in Spain*. Filmed in 2004, this 11-song set from an outdoor festival captures the increasingly cadaverous Velvet Underground overlord turning in yet another perfunctory, detached performance with his crack backing band. On the one hand, we can understand how boring it must be to crank out *Satellite of Love*, *Sweet Jane*, *Venus in Furs* and *Walk on the Wild Side* for the 10,000th time. But on the other, if he's too bored to summon up any enthusiasm, why should we?

★★1/2



The Vibrators Live Energized CBGB 2004 MVD | Koch

Give them credit. After nearly 30 years, a couple of dozen albums



and who knows how many thousands of live gigs, The Vibrators — fronted as always by singer-guitarist Ian (Knox) Carnochan — are still plugging away. And as the aptly titled DVD suggests, they're still delivering the goods. Taped last year in the New York punk mecca, *Live Energized CBGB* finds the band burning through a 23-song set chock full of oldies like *Whips and Furs*, *Wrecked on You*, *Amphetamine Blue* and *Yeah Yeah Yeah*. Bonus materials include a couple of interviews and Easter eggs.

★★★

MOVIES+TV

Team America

Rude, crude and lewd. As nasty as it is naughty. Savagely satirical. Sexually disturbing. And for adults only. Most of that is a good thing. *Team America: World Police* is a puppet animation movie from renegades Trey Parker and Matt Stone, the co-creators of TV's ribald *South Park*. No sacred cows go unslaughtered in their work and *Team America* may be their most extreme effort ever. And not just because they depict two naked puppets having sex in a scene that had jaws dropping. Available in rated and unrated versions.

★★★1/2



Son of the Mask

Once *Son of the Mask* kicks into full manic mode, it's clear the slapstick comedy is a homage to the vintage Warner Bros. cartoons, especially *The Roadrunner*. It's the kind of silly stuff viewers will either embrace and howl at or find annoying.

★★★



White Noise

A widower (Michael Keaton) becomes convinced that his dead wife is trying to communicate with him via EVP (Electronic Voice Phenomena), which involves hearing the dead through



the static of a detuned radio or likewise seeing them in the fuzzy static of a TV screen. (And all these years you thought that was the CBC! Bwahahahaaaaaaa!) *White Noise* has many of the flaws, but it's creepily good at building tension.

★★★

Scrubs: Complete First Season

Whenever people say TV comedy is dead, it's obvious they've never seen — or don't fully appreciate — the sublime surrealist genius of NBC's medical comedy *Scrubs*. The series stars Zach Braff as a young doctor (in and out of love with colleague played by Sarah Chalke) whose professional and personal travails are the stuff of hilarity. Now the first season of the show



is out on DVD and if you've never seen it, or wished you've seen more of it, now's your chance. And remember another season come fall is assured — an especially good thing since the series has matured since its inaugural year, finding a perfect balance between the subtle and ridiculous.



The Sea Inside

After he's left a quadriplegic, a Galician man (Javier Bardem) fights for the right to die a dignified death. Regardless of the subject matter or your views on it, this is a magical film about the wonder of being alive.

★★★

> Kevin Williamson

