

+ Music



Bice: nice

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## NEW IN MUSIC DVDS

**Franz Ferdinand**

**FRANZ FERDINAND** (*Domino*) In 2004, the best-dressed band in rock embarked on a world tour in support of their self-titled debut. Two discs include 14 of those shows (including a tiny secret one in their native Glasgow, complete with an outside acoustic set for those who couldn't get in) and two full concerts. Their onstage intensity is unassailable, but if you want debauchery, be warned: Franz seem as balanced as the postshow red wine they favor for backstage high jinks. **COOL CURIO** A one-hour doc on the making of this doc steals the show. **B** —*Timothy Gunatillaka*

## NEW YORK DOLLS: ALL DOLLED UP



**NEW YORK DOLLS: ALL DOLLED UP** (*Music Video Distributors*) Culled from some 40 hours of early-'70s footage shot by Bob Gruen and Nadya Beck, this revealing cinema vérité film captures the Dolls' dynamic. Their rowdy live shows and rowdier offstage lifestyle make it clear they really did midwife punk. Yet it's the unexpectedly poignant moments—like seeing Johnny Thunders' mom and sis wish him bon voyage before a tour—that get you. **COOL CURIO** Documentation of the Dolls' only performance in full-on drag at New York's Club 82. **A** —*TS*

The *American Idol* finalist's debut CD may share a title with a 1971 live album by Taj Mahal, but the two discs couldn't be more different. In sharp contrast to Mahal's down-home warmth, Bice traffics in lowest-common-denominator power ballads and sickeningly slick corporate rock. If titles like "U Make Me Better" and "Hold On to Me" don't tip you off to the aesthetic direction, the presence of guest stars/song doctors like Nickelback's Chad Kroeger and Bon Jovi's Jon Bon Jovi and Richie Sambora ought to. The bland hackwork arrangements only emphasize his wholly unremarkable competence. Bottom line: Skip this *Thing*—and go pick up Taj Mahal's. **C** —*Tom Sinclair*

## TRISTEZA

A Colores (*Better Looking*)



This San Diego quintet falls into the no-solos school of instrumental rock, creating a drowsy Sunday-afternoon soundtrack out of a

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ago, when the notion of global annihilation ceased to be a morbid abstraction. And if our grandparents never quite learned how to stop worrying and love the bomb, they found novel ways to confront their anxieties. Compiled with scholarly care on five CDs (plus a DVD and handsome companion book) are more than 100 songs, comedy bits, and public service announcements that defined those uneasy times. From the playful blues of Sam Hinton's "Old Man Atom" to the appalling agitprop of Groucho Marx selling the survivability of a nuclear

the pills-and-latent-rage variety; here, he matches easy-going anecdotes with live versions of classics like "Ring of Fire." **COOL CURIO** Pretty much every one of J.C.'s Kris Kristofferson stories is a keeper. **A-** —*Leah Greenblatt*



**IMAGINE: JOHN LENNON** (*Warner Bros.*) Conveniently released to coincide with the 25th anniversary of John Lennon's death, this 1988 documentary feels like a bland CliffsNotes version of the ex-Beatle's life. The by-the-numbers narrative is redeemed, however, by amazing live and home-video footage, which fleshes out Lennon's feisty, contradictory personality. **COOL CURIO** The best bits are a hilariously dated interview with a clueless BBC Radio reporter and a shaggy acoustic 1971 performance of "Imagine." **B-** —*ME*