

his mother called the station. The captain (Daniel J. Travanti) spent his time juggling problems on the street with those inside his station house and was lucky enough to come home each night to a hot public defender (Veronica Hammel), although their relationship had to be kept secret. Like *Alien Nation*, there was a great deal of goofiness, at least by today's standards, juxtaposed with doses of harsh realism that propelled each episode forward. *HSB* was responsible for launching the careers of several actors, including Dennis Franz, Lindsay Crouse, Joe Spano, Bruce Weitz and Jeffrey Tambor, all of whom are still doing good work. If you were a fan back in the day, here's your chance to relive some wonderful memories. If you've never seen or heard of *Hill Street Blues*, it's well worth checking out to see the show that started it all.



**New York Dolls**  
*All Dolled Up*  
(MVD)

**Thunders, Kane & Nolan**  
*You Can't Put Your Arms Around A Memory*  
(MVD)

In 1972, photographer Bob Gruen saw the New York Dolls at NYC's Mercer Center and soon after began

shooting videos of their performances using a handheld video camera that he had recently purchased. Some of the 40 hours of accumulated footage has been edited down into this 95-minute documentary that follows the glam-rockers from their earliest days at Max's Kansas City to a tour of the West Coast and back to NYC again, where they had become full-blown superstars. Although much of the images are grainy and the music leans towards low-fi, there's no denying the power of the Dolls when they were on and they were on a lot. They come off as a bunch of good-natured kids from Staten Island who look good in women's clothes, yet never too effeminate to scare off the ladies. Twelve complete performances are included in the bonus features, along with an interview with Bob Gruen, photos from his collection, commentaries by David Johansen and Sylvain Sylvain and a 16-page booklet with even more pics.

After the band split in '75 the musicians went their separate ways, but occasionally came together in various permutations for selected shows. In 1987, Johnny Thunders, Arthur "Killer" Kane and Jerry Nolan converged at the Roxy in Los Angeles for a club gig featuring a collection of Dolls' hits, rock standards and material from Thunders' solo albums. The band sounds great and not at all junked out, however, the cameraperson was shooting from the elevated VIP section of the club and spent nearly the entire time focused on Thunders and rhythm guitarist Barry Jones. Nolan is glimpsed briefly on a couple of occasions, but Kane is nowhere to be seen. A shame, as the sound quality is good and the performance is tight. Even sadder is the fact that all three of these cats have since passed on, due to drugs and disease.

**Phil Upchurch**  
*In Concert*  
(Inakustik)

Jazz guitarist Upchurch has been kicking around since the early '70s and this DVD catches him in performance as part of German TV's *Ohne Filter* series. Straddling the line between straight ahead and smooov jazz, Upchurch reels off some tasty licks while backed by a solid, if unexceptional band. Early in the set, vocalist Gavin Christopher joins the group, adding a dimension of soulfulness to the set. Then, as an added surprise Fred Wesley, Pee Wee Ellis and Maceo Parker step out towards the end to blow some super-funky horns and bring down the house.

**The Velvet Underground**  
*Velvet Redux Live MCMXCIII*  
(Rhino)

No one thought the Velvets would ever reunite, much less tour, so it's a relief that Sire Records had the good sense to record their three night stand at the Paris Olympia in 1993. Included are 15 songs plucked from their studio albums and solo efforts, such as a charming rendition of "I'm Sticking With You," with Moe Tucker center stage on vocals and a searing version of "Hey Mr. Rain" featuring a lengthy violin-guitar duel between John Cale and Lou Reed. Moe pounds the skins with clockwork precision and Cale ably switches from guitar to piano to violin whenever he needs to. Sterling Morrison gets the least amount of screen time, but he wasn't all that charismatic anyway and doesn't do much singing. If you sprung for the box set and/or any of the recent double-disc reissues, you need to add this DVD to your collection!



**Buzzcocks**  
*Live At Shepherds Bush Empire 2003*  
(MVD)

More reunion buzzness from one of the original British pop-punk bands and this is all killer, no filler! Reformed, recording and touring off and on since 1993, Pete Shelly and Steve Diggle are the sole remaining original members, but you'd never know the other two guys weren't there from the beginning. Performing 32 songs in around 90 minutes, the band sound as ferocious as they did back in the late '70s as they burn through all their hits, along with more recent material that's as good as the classic stuff. You know Green Day took more than a little inspiration from these guys, but as good as our Berkeley dudes are, Buzzcocks are still the real deal.



**Pixies**  
*Sell Out 2004 Reunion Tour*  
(Rhino)

Memo to Frank Black and Kim Deal: seriously consider a salad once in awhile. Frank - what do you weigh now...like 400 lbs? And Kim: just say no to the desert tray! When I saw the Pixies at Coachella in May of 2004, I was way on the other side of the Polo Fields and caught most of the set on the "Jumbotron," so I wasn't prepared for how Frank filled up my TV screen with his....presence. But I digress: the music's what it's all about right? The "bulk" of this DVD was recorded at the Eurockennes Festival in Belfort, France and the band look happy to be back on tour and performing a "large chunk" of their catalog for thousands of screaming fans. You'll be screaming too, when they kick into "Gigantic," "U-Mass," "Debaser," "Here Comes Your Man" and 24 other faves. But wait, there's more: an additional 15 performances from other cities around the world, all in glorious 5.1 Dolby Surround that will "fill" your room with glorious post-punk goodness.



lar capacity for the past d of her BC Ensemble creat *Grandmother* - a silen Russian government for c describe how surreal this website: *Forgotten for a GRANDMOTHER (CHEM of the Soviet Eccentric C ent satire of the then still its anarchic styles-which gerated camera angles, a film unspools the foibles Georgian paper pusher, Harold Lloyd, loses his jo old and new jazz, classica even if you're not watchin info, check her website: v upcoming appearances ar*



reserved for the special fe song? The disc started pr over Milton Keynes, swoo capturing the excitement "Thus Sprach Zarathustra "American Idiot," you ha and I got goosebumps. Th was Billie Joe discussing, all the energy just dissipa the scene changed and w the song in question, but bullshit footage of the ba the concert for the fourth or close-up confessional i turn it off. This was a bac and I had actually paid fo The only saving grace is t version intact, so I'm kee of how to ruin a concert o thing for anyone not able