



# Mojo January 06 New York Dolls Review



Muddy Waters got his mojo working at Newport.

## Muddy Waters

★★★★

### Classic Concerts

UNIVERSAL

See Muddy walter!



July 3, 1960, a balmy Sunday afternoon in Rhode Island. A mostly white audience loll in the sun to see the final blues portion of the Newport Jazz Festival. The previous night Ray Charles' set so inflamed topped revellers that police fired tear gas and the National Guard were deployed. So the blues seemed appropriate and headliner Waters' best band – including pianist Otis Spann and James Cotton (harmonic) – delivered a classic performance. No surprises in songs, but Waters' mojo is working so well that he waltzes with Cotton, does a nimble jitterbug, and unambiguously thrusts his groin. Eight years later, in Copenhagen, his band is looser and Waters less engaged, except by his guitar. By 1977, at the Molde Jazz Festival, the band is tighter again, Muddy at ease in his revered unofficial US cultural ambassador role.

Geoff Brown

## Billie Holiday

★★★★

### The Ultimate Collection

UNIVERSAL

At last, the Lady has her day on DVD.



This is probably as good as it gets. Billie made few appearances on film and TV and virtually the whole meagre selection, including clips from New Orleans, her only major big screen appearance, has been

assembled here for display mostly in dubious monochrome. Nevertheless, the footage, especially the Sound Of Jazz all-star jam on Fine And Mellow with Gerry Mulligan, Coleman Hawkins, Lester Young etc where each proffered instrumental chorus is received like a love letter by an appreciative Holiday, is hypnotic. To compensate for the shortage of pure Billie visual material, two fine selections by mentors Bessie Smith and Louis Armstrong have been included along with various audio-only items, though the most mind-blowing programme addition is perhaps the incredible photo gallery, which extends seemingly forever, with portraits of Billie, locations, her friends and accomplices, posters, personal certificates and documents, letters and postcards. A diligently compiled release but one destined to provoke sighs of, "if only".

Fred Dellor

## John Lennon

★★★★

### Imagine: John Lennon Deluxe Edition

WARNER HOME VIDEO

Fine, feature-length cinematic 'autobiography' that could have worked harder. Though Lennon has been rudely upstaged by Dylan in this



anniversary year of his death, a deluxe edition of this 1988 documentary could have gone a long way in shifting the balance back in his favour. As it stands, the film, narrated in his own words from archive interviews, covers most bases – from confused childhood to cheeky Beatle, angry young man to wise older parent, Christ-like controversy-seeker to sanctified hero. But when measured against Scorsese's magnificent documentary of Dylan's finest years, the decision not to opt for a 'Director's Cut' (the film-makers themselves speak of a six-hour edit in one of the less-than-spectacular add-ons). Imagine looks a little threadbare. Home movie material and a smattering of talking heads enliven familiar footage from Shea Stadium and the Apple building rooftop. The end result is an affectionate, but necessarily gritty portrayal of a man who, 25 years after his murder, remains unsurpassed as rock's most effective, engaging and misunderstood voice of protest.

Mark Paytress

## Abba

★★★★★

### The Movie

FOCUS UNIVERSAL

Thank you for the music and the visuals.

Released simultaneously with *The Album* at the height of Abba-mania, *Abba The Movie* remains the only celluloid artifact of the band, capturing them at their very zenith on their Australian tour in 1977. Buffed up a treat for DVD, the plot, as such, concerns the frequently thwarted attempts of a DJ (Robert Hughes) to get an interview with the group. But it is the live performances here that, along with those right-angled poses in their videos, forever crystallise Abba – looking gorgeous and wholesomely

saucy, romping through enormously groovy numbers such as Tiger, Dancing Queen and SOS. The limited edition bonus disc features amiable enough interviews with director Lasse Hallström, Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvæus from earlier this year. All three have gone on to be Serious Artists, but here they reflect on simpler, frothier times. *Abba The Movie* is innocent and frequently enjoyable fun, offering a valuable chance to grab the group at face value before the darker undercurrents and, later, the irony merchants swarmed in.

Daryl Eastlea

## New York Dolls

★★★★

### All Dolled Up

NEAR VISION DISTRIBUTORS

An exhilarating encapsulation of a group at their chaotic, beatific peak.

"Are you really bad?" asks one middle-aged man incredulously of the group as they loiter at the airport. "They said you were bad last night on the TV." Others stand staring, taking snaps or openly laughing as guitarist Sylvain Sylvain, all corkscrew curls, totters on high heels through customs in skimpy hot pants. If someone told you Spinal Tap was based on this band you wouldn't be surprised. But it's the footage of them playing live, rather than the interview segues, that makes husband and wife team Nadya and Bob Gruen's *All Dolled Up* such a defining portrait as they follow the fledgling group's trashy beginnings at Kenny's Castaways and Max's Kansas City to more theatrical performances at the Whisky A Go-Go and Rodney Bingenheimer's E Club. Thunders, Kane and Nolan's *You Can't Put Your Arms Around A Memory*, also released, revisits an incendiary guitarist, bassist and drummer on stage 12 years after their group's demise.

Lois Wilson

## DVD EXTRA

BY ANDREW CARDEN, STEVE CHICK, JEFF TAMARKIN, KIERON TYLER AND LOIS WILSON

### Dig!

★★★★★

TARTAN VIDEO

The Dandy Warhols nab their mates' dishevelled Boho doctrine and punky Who meets Byrds

musical style; they even gaterash their trashed apartment to shoot their video among the debris. Meanwhile, the Brian Jonestown Massacre denounce the friendship, get bitter, get busted for drugs and eventually implode. Seven years in the making, Ondi Timoner's ruthlessly cutthroat, sad and comic documentary makes essential viewing. LW

### Caribou

★★★★

MARINO LEAF

Fluffy toy musicians, choreographed children's crayon drawings, a remake of Lunn & Hardy's *The Music Box* where a hapless deliveryman tumbles down stairs in synch with the beat. Delicious 9's animations for Caribou's effervescent psychedelia are simple genius and lovingly executed. The lush accompanying book only adds to this project's homemade charm and professional finish. SC

### The Chesterfield Kings

★★★★

MUSIC VIDEO DISTRIBUTORS

Where Is The Chesterfield King?!! Garage-punk purists from the '60s, The Chesterfield Kings

turn their hand to the pop B-movie. The result is a black-and-white gem with a gloriously flimsy plot based around the kidnapping of their drummer by the evil alien Andro. The group can't act but this is a real hope, akin to a grade 2 Ed Wood no-budgeter. KT

### Cream

★★★★

Royal Albert Hall London

May 2-3-5-6 2005

VOYAGER MUSIC VIDEO

The geezer reunion of the year is reproduced faithfully and respectfully here on two discs: no nonsense, just the show, a few alternate takes, some interview clips, and that's that. Clapton-Bruce-Baker are remarkably supple and while it'd be a lie to claim they play as if not a day has passed since '68, neither do they betray their legacy. JT

### Burn To Shine 2

★★★★

Chicago IL 09.13.2004

TRIPLE DVD

As close as you're likely to get to having the cream of Chicago's alt rock scene

playing in your own living room. Curated by Shellac's Bob Weston, the second in the *Burn To Shine* series features Shellac, Tortoise, Wilco and an eclectic host of others literally rocking the foundations of a house destined for imminent demolition. AC