



Pixies **Sell Out**

If you didn't get the chance to see the Pixies the first two times around, then here's your chance. And it could be a lot worse. This writer never saw the Pixies—due first to ineptitude then fear—but mixed reviews of last year's reunion aside, the *Pixies Sell Out* clearly demonstrates that the Massachusetts quartet still has it. Sure they've put on some weight, and the video direction has VH1 written all over it, but who cares? When the 2004 Pixies play, every song sounds as vital as the day it was written. And even if the tempos are a little adagio—again, who cares? The Pixies have great songs. It was never about striking some sort of pose, with the Pixies. It's always been about making wonderfully inscrutable three-minute pop songs, and that's what we get here. Comprising a performance from the Eurockéennes Festival at Belfort, France, *Sell Out* delivers an energetic 28-song set, and 15 bonus tracks from such events as Coachella, T in the Park and the Fuji Rock Festival. Though there aren't any band interviews, the strength of the material more than makes up for the lack of chatter from the band. —Allan Martin Kemler

Rhino.com

All Dolled Up **A New York Dolls Story**

The New York Dolls invented trashy, New York, gender-bending glam rock. A bunch of mooks from Staten Island dressed up in their mothers' frocks, the Dolls are the missing link between the Rolling Stones and Iggy Pop. Director Bob Gruen's documentary, culled from 40 hours of film, captures one of the Big Apple and proto-punk's signature bands in the midst of New York's equivalent of the decadent Bauhaus era. A mixture of tarty backstage hi-jinx, performance footage and group interviews, *All Dolled Up* is a cinema vérité-style portrait of a seminal rock 'n roll band at the peak of its powers. However, the Dolls are boring compared to the incidental music of the film's visual background: Early '70s Manhattan. Skyscrapers, LaGuardia, gigantized gas-guzzling Buicks and Chryslers. Street scenes. These are the real highlights of Gruen's film. Like watching found footage of some family's family reunion, *A New York Dolls Story* reads like a postcard delivered from the dead letter office of New York history circa 1972. —Allan Martin Kemler

MusicVideoDistributors.com

Giant Sand **Drunken Bees**

This limited edition DVD release (No. 103 of 1000) captures Howe Gelb and Co. circa 1994 wandering the peaks and promontories of the high and lonesome sound, and fills in the blanks with a defacto day-in-the-life of the Neil Young and margaritas-tinged band. Stereotypical "fucking with the drunk guy" and "inscrutable in-joke dialogue" episodes punctuate the proceedings, but despite the lo-rent production it all hangs together. Naturally, the best part is catching elemental footage of future Calexico members Joey Burns and John Convertino, as well as Victoria Williams fresh off her success with "Crazy Mary." The main film is less than half an hour, but the extras fill out the disc with live radio and studio recording performances, making the whole enterprise that much more worthwhile. Gelb's natural charisma and an amazing pedal steel solo at the end of one of the extras don't hurt either. —Allan Martin Kemler

DrunkenBees.com

Guided By Voices **The Electrifying Conclusion**

This 240-minute, 63-song DVD of one of indie rock's most influential acts' final performance at the Metro in Chicago on New Year's Eve 2004 is a fitting conclusion to a shambolic 21-year career. Beginning with a 10-minute "eulogy" revolving around imagery traditionally used by Christian TV stations (mountain meadows, babbling brooks, rippulous ponds) and still photos from the band's past, *Electrifying Conclusion* starts a little slowly but soon picks up speed due. Band leader Robert Pollard arrives on stage sober and leaves in a drunken stupor; however, along the way he manages to steer his four-piece band through a cornucopia of treasures, including outtakes, rarities and reunions with former members Tobin Sprout, Jim MacPherson, Jim Greer, Greg Demos and Don Thrasher, as well as guests Matt Sweeney of Chavez/Zwan/Superwolf, Jon Wurster of Superchunk and Pollard's brother Jim. The band is spot-on throughout, and no matter how slurred Pollard's between song banter becomes, he's in fine voice on every number, miraculously remembering ever quirky musical turn and tongue-twisting lyric. Extras include rare live footage of a GBV performance from January 1994 at the Antenna in Memphis, Tenn., and exclusive footage of the former fourth-grade teacher recording demos for *Half Smiles of the Decomposed*. The DVD booklet includes liner notes by WFMU DJ Tom Scharpling. —Allan Martin Kemler

Plexifilm.com