



The Beastie Boys: *Beastie Boys Starring In: Awesome: I Fuckin' Shot That!* DVD (ThinkFilm)

The Beastie Boys wanted to try for a big-screen concert film but decided to shoot it with small digicams. They handed out 50 cameras at their sold-out performance at New York City's Madison Square Garden and the result is a lo-fi "you are there" flick that, while initially cool, starts to wear on you visually after a while. The DVD also includes a super self-indulgent 30-minute short film starring comedian David Cross as fictional BB character Nathaniel Hornblower that overstays its welcome by about 29 minutes. Much better are DJ Mix Master Mike's gun battles with Slipknot and being captured by The Donnas while he's turned Terminator. You'll have to see it to believe it. (www.beastieboys.com)

5 Blips out of 10

By Nick Hyman



Coachella DVD (Goldenvoice/Anti)

The *Coachella* film had a rocky theatrical release this past spring and has already arrived on DVD in a lackluster edition. Of course, the film itself is still incredible, and is without a doubt the best way to experience the Coachella festival without actually being there. However, this DVD version is a big-time letdown. There's no commentary to explain the making of or any extra performances from the artists featured in the film (Pixies, Radiohead, The White Stripes, etc.). Also nonexistent are any performances from the countless other Coachella bands that were not featured in the film (Basement Jaxx, Underworld, Junior Senior, etc.). Instead we get brief (2-5 minutes average) bonus interviews from some other artists, photographs, and scans of the posters from past years' shows. Why include a second disc if you're not going to put anything worthwhile on it? Hopefully, there'll be other Coachella films, and they'll get far better "special" editions than this. (www.coachella.com)

Film: 9 Blips out of 10
DVD: 3 Blips out of 10

By Nick Hyman

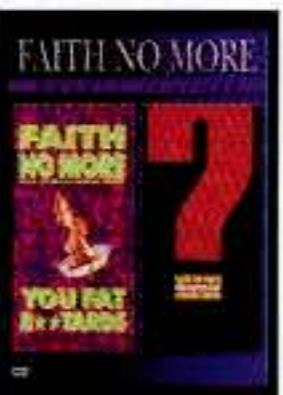


Dazed and Confused: The Criterion Collection DVD (Criterion)

Writer/Director Richard Linklater's bicentennial-based end-of-high-school masterpiece finally gets the special-edition treatment it deserved all along (Universal botched their *Flashback Edition* in 2004). Linklater's first foray into Hollywood filmmaking is still the most satisfying flick he's done to date. Throughout the years, he has carried the indie spirit torch (*Before Sunset*, *Waking Life*) while flirting with Hollywood (*The Newton Boys*, *School of Rock*, the abysmal *Bad News Bears*), but Linklater has never recaptured the fun and effortlessness of *Dazed and Confused*. With Criterion, the wait is usually worth it, and this double-disc set is no exception. Along with the film and a laid-back commentary from Linklater himself, the discs include almost thirty minutes of deleted scenes, an excellent 50-minute documentary, on-set behind-the-scenes footage, audition reels (including those of now-famous faces Ben Affleck, Matthew McConaughey, and Parker Posey), a 72-page book featuring retrospective interviews and essays from the likes of ubiquitous hipster Chuck Klosterman, and a foldout Frank Kozik poster! Any bonus feature footage that features McConaughey will put an instant smile on your face, especially when the actor says one of Wooderson's famous lines: "It'd be a lot cooler if you did." (www.criterionco.com)

Film: 9 Blips out of 10
DVD: 8 Blips out of 10

By Nick Hyman



Faith No More: Double Feature (Live at the Brixton Academy London You Fat Bastards and Who Cares a Lot? The Greatest Videos) DVD (Rhino)

Mike Patton is all over the place these days (check out the Peeping Tom review elsewhere in this issue), but back in the day, he was the second and final frontman behind the experimental hard rock outfit Faith No More (original lead singer Chuck Mosley was fired in 1988). Two of the band's past videos have been reissued together on DVD (with

zero extras), and they show a lasting impact that has influenced current acts such as Korn and System of a Down. Those latter bands aren't as innovative as the now-disbanded Bay Area rockers, who, through all their day-glo spastic rock songs, still found time to cover Lionel Richie's "Easy" to great effect. The video for that song is in this collection, as is the excellent Joseph Kahn-directed "Last Cup of Sorrow," a great *Vertigo* homage starring Jennifer Jason Leigh in the Kim Novak role. The 1990 performance at the Brixton Academy is a shock-tastic spectacle that shows Patton in a juvenile mood before he discovered how beautiful his voice could be. (www.rhino.com)

Live at The Brixton Academy, London You Fat Bastards: 5 Blips out of 10

Who Cares a Lot? The Greatest Videos: 8 Blips out of 10

By Nick Hyman

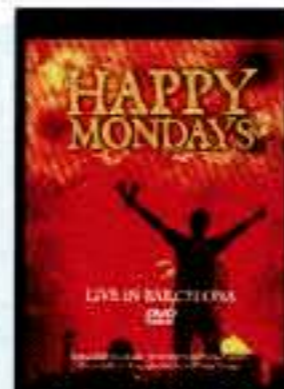


Gram Parsons: *Fallen Angel* DVD (Spothouse/BBC/Rhino)

Gram Parsons was a pioneer of the fusion of country music and rock 'n' roll. His untimely death at the young age of 26—from an overdose of morphine and tequila in Joshua Tree—continues to inspire and haunt musicians to this day. *Fallen Angel* is German director Gandulf Hennig's excellent documentary on the life and legacy of Parsons, who achieved fame both as a solo artist and as a one-time member of The International Submarine Band, The Byrds, and The Flying Burrito Brothers. Parsons' story has never been told with such clarity and heart. Interviews with Parsons' friends and contemporaries Keith Richards and Emmylou Harris are flat-out incredible; they open themselves up talking about Parsons, who passed away in 1973. The story is so compelling and tragic that it will certainly move you, even if you have little idea who Gram Parsons is. He really does seem to be the father of alt-country. (www.rhino.com)

9 Blips out of 10

By Nick Hyman



Happy Mondays: *Live in Barcelona* DVD (MVD)

Happy Mondays lead singer Shaun Ryder had a mini-resurgence last year as the smug vocalist on the Gorillaz' smash single, "DARE." Having Shaun belt out "It's comin' up" over and over recalled his glory days leading one of Manchester's biggest bands of the late-'80s. That success carried the band into the '90s until Happy Mondays transformed into Black Grape. After that, things were a bit quieter for the band until December of 2004 when this set was recorded. Shaun's a little bit puffer and a smidge older, but he still leads the party as cohort Bez rocks the tambourine. All of the favorites are here: "Hallelujah," "24 Hour Party People," and "Bob's Yer Uncle" are funky and fun. An extended interview with Ryder and the show's soundcheck add sweetness to an already sugarcube-sweet set. (www.musicvideodistributors.com)

7 Blips out of 10

By Nick Hyman

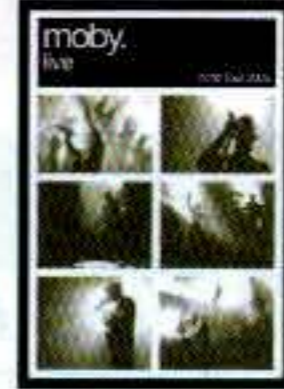


Home Movies: Season Four DVD (Shout! Factory)

The last season of *Home Movies* is probably my favorite. The hilarious animated series from creators Brendon Small and Loren Bouchard originally appeared on the now defunct UPN network and was pulled after five episodes, only to reappear two years later on Cartoon Network's popular Adult Swim lineup. Following elementary schooler/film auteur wannabe Brendon Small (a kid version of the creator), the largely improvised show revolves around Brendan's dream and constant compulsion to create movies while receiving bad and largely unsolicited advice on life from his soccer coach, John McGuirk. Every season DVD collection up to this point has received excellent special editions, and this season is no exception. One of the best episodes, "Camp," features guests They Might Be Giants, and a few of the episodes have guest commentaries from other indie stalwarts such as The Shins, Modest Mouse, and the staff of radical newspaper *The Onion*. Plus, all of the goofy music and the inspired songs from the series are included here on a bonus CD, proving that Shout! Factory has indeed saved the best for last. (www.shoutfactory.com)

Season 4: 8 Blips out of 10
DVD: 9 Blips out of 10

By Nick Hyman



Moby: *Live: Hotel Tour 2005* DVD/CD (Mute)

The original bald vegan techno maestro has returned with a live DVD/CD that wraps up last year's overlooked *Hotel*, which was most notable for its extra CD of ambient tracks. Moby has been trying to fill the rather large pop/rock star shoes he left after the phenomenal success of his 1999 *Play* album. This live set in Leuven, Belgium is a hodgepodge of Moby's pre- and post-*Play* material that has the large crowd going mad when he busts out his *Twin Peaks*-sampling "Go." However, seeing Moby front a band with a guitar still takes a while to get used to. The nearly two-hour show is accompanied by all of the music videos from *Hotel*, extra short films from Moby, and a full-length *Hotel* remix CD featuring the likes of Tiga and Mylo. (www.moby.com)

DVD/CD: 7 Blips out of 10

By Nick Hyman



Rush: *Replay x3* DVD Box Set (Mercury/Universal)

"What about the voice of Geddy Lee, how did it get so high? I wonder if he speaks like an ordinary guy? I know him and he does! And you're my fact-checkin' cuz." Those lyrics from Pavement's "Stereo" are a great introduction to Rush. The Canadian progressive rock gods—vocalist/bassist Lee, guitarist Alex Lifeson, and boss drummer/esoteric lyricist Neil Peart—have reissued three of their past videos and an extra CD to put you in a jamming, prog-loving mood. If you were a part of your high-school marching band in the '80s and '90s, you know what I'm talking about. (www.rush.com)

8 Blips out of 10

By Nick Hyman



Trachtenburg Family Slideshow *Players: Off and On Broadway* DVD (Sarathan Records)

Just the other day, I was wondering what happened to the Trachtenburg trio when this DVD arrived on my doorstep. The vaudeville-esque group includes Mom (Tina), Dad (Jason), and their now 12-year-old daughter Rachel on drums. The DVD is more of a primer for those who missed the act when they toured in 2003-2004, showcasing their singular mix of songs made from found slides, thrift style, and homespun charm. Appearances from David Cross (he's everywhere!), Regina Spektor, and Nellie McKay break up the filmed appearances at the off-Broadway Lamb's Theatre. Sadly, the documentary never delves deep into the rigors of touring and the toll it might take on the youngest Trachtenburg, who already looks a bit worn down by the experience. Appearances on Conan O'Brien are tantalizingly mentioned but never shown, and it's hard to understand what all the fuss is about when the entire film is only a little over 40 minutes long. It's very likely that the family wanted to bottle up their kitschy shtick while Rachel was still young enough to make it seem special (she's been drumming since she was six). Unfortunately, *Off and On Broadway* isn't quite the time capsule that I thought it might be. (www.slideshowplayers.com)

5 Blips out of 10

By Nick Hyman



The Weird Al Show DVD (Shout! Factory)

Rock parodist "Weird Al" Yankovic has done it all: He has sold over 12 million albums to date, made a cult film (*UHF*), directed videos, and he has even made a little-seen CBS Saturday morning television show in the late '90s that has finally made its way to DVD. The show, while heavily influenced by *Pee Wee's Playhouse*, is not as original, but it still has its many charms, with Yankovic playing many characters and injecting his trademark musical parodies and perhaps too-adult for kids absurdity at every turn. Peyton Reed (Superchunk video director, *Bring It On*), who directs the episodes, is hilariously honest with Al about their network dealings on the commentaries that accompany every episode. Look out for guest stars Patton Oswalt, *Alias*' Kevin Weisman and the truly awesome John Tesh! If a Wikipedia entry is to be believed, millions of fans worldwide await this DVD's release. (www.shoutfactory.com)

Series: 6 Blips out of 10
DVD: 7 Blips out of 10

By Nick Hyman