



Ghostface Killah

More Fish

(Def Jam)

Rap

The Wu-Tang Clan's most reliable warrior extends his string of triumphs with this sequel to his March release, *Fishscale*. Six discs into his solo career, Ghostface handily delivers everything that his fans expect: nostalgic soul samples, richly detailed scenes of street life, and an abundance of inventive wordplay ("A shark's teeth ain't sharp enough/I'm like Mount St. Helen when the god erupt"). B-list Wu cronies contribute a few too many forgettable guest verses, but Ghost's technique has never been deadlier. **A-**

—Simon Vozick-Levinson

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"You Know I'm No Good"



Andy Partridge

Fuzzy Warbles

Collector's Album

(Ape House)

Pop

Andy Partridge, the adenoidal auteur of off-kilter popsters XTC, once tempered herk and jerk with such grand melodies and shimmering production that he qualified as the Paul McCartney of post-punk. But the band's last album was six years ago, and the interim flood of lesser outtakes collections is threatening to wash away its legacy. This latest gathers nine discs of unfocused solo demos, and drives home Partridge's need for an editor...or a curator...or medication for ADD. **B-**

—Sean Howe

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"All I Dream of Is a

Friend"



Swan Lake

Beast Moans

(Jagjaguwar)

Rock

If indie rock were like fantasy football, this would be a dream team: Dan Bejar (Destroyer, the New Pornographers), Spencer Krug (Wolf Parade), and Carey Mercer (Frog Eyes). Some of it works, as when Krug masterfully leads the deep-fuzz dirge "All Fires" and Bejar turns out a typically erudite anthem in "The Freedom." But it's ultimately pretty patchwork, and the woolly psychedelic blanket the trio throws over *Moans* never quite unifies its disparate elements. Think of it not so much as a great album as an intriguing compilation. **B-**

—Leah Greenblatt

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"All Fires"



Yabby You

Deliver Me From My

Enemies

(Blood and Fire)

Reissue

This impassioned Jamaican vocalist often coupled Rastafarian imagery with fervent Christian preaching, an unusual combination in '70s reggae. But fiery soul-stirrers aren't all that this 1977 album offers. Yabby You's charisma also animates secular lover's pleas like "Lonely Me"—he's equally at ease over gentle roots grooves and choppy dub mixes. Drummer Sly Dunbar and bassist Robbie Shakespeare live up to their legendary reputation throughout, but these powerful performances are all about You. **A-**

—SVL

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"Zion Gate"



Micah P. Hinson

Micah P. Hinson and the

Opera Circuit

(Jade Tree)

Indie Folk

Twenty-five-year-old Hinson is yet another heartfelt fella with a guitar and a notebook full of distressed scribbles. His second album stands out from the singer-songwriter crowd, thanks to the uniqueness of the Texan's weary wheeze, the idiosyncratic gypsy instrumentation (accordions, banjos, fiddles), and his adroit way with melody. "Jackeyed," to pick one example, flips from a tear-soaked verse into a horns-blazing chorus that could inspire an entire roadhouse to sing along. **B+**

—Michael Endelman

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"Jackeyed"

What's New in...Music DVDs

FOUR FLICKS THAT ROCK



GORILLAZ PHASE TWO—SLOWBOAT

TO HADES (Virgin) **The Gist**

A roundup of recent videos from Damon Albarn's fabricated popsters, plus other items of weirdness, including their fully animated appearance on MTV's *Cribs* and footage in which a cartoon polar bear, ahem, bares his genitals. **The Extras** A bonus CD-ROM offers screensavers and games, including darts and mah-jongg.

The Verdict The clips are surreally spectacular. But the rest of the material is mostly unfunny monkey business. **B-**

—Clark Callis



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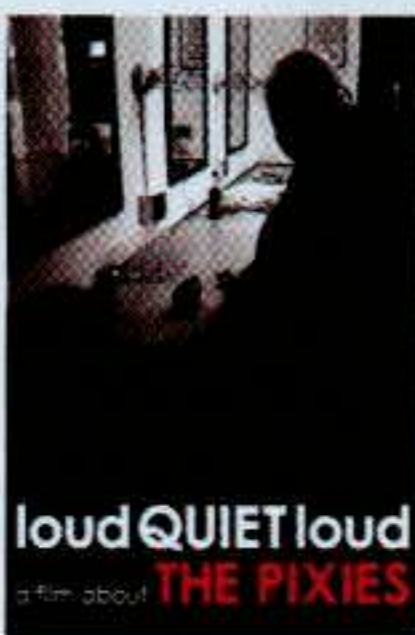
(Geffen/UMe) **The Gist**

Released on VHS in 1994 and out of print for several years, this DVD combines *Nevermind*-era concert clips—including a cheeky performance on England's *Top of the Pops*—with backstage footage, news bits, and combative interviews.

The Extras Five previously unavailable songs from a tight 1991 show in Amsterdam.

The Verdict A reminder that the Seattle trio was a fierce, unpredictable live act with a sardonic sense of humor. **A-**

—ME



LOUDQUIETLOUD: A FILM ABOUT

THE PIXIES (MVD Visual) **The Gist**

Cameras trail the influential alt-rock act on their global 2004 reunion tour, capturing their electric live performances, awkward backstage interactions, and ordinary home lives. **The Extras** Deleted on-the-road scenes and a commentary track from the codirectors and editor. **The Verdict** Never delving deeply into the band's dysfunctional history, this timid documentary feels like a missed opportunity. **B-**

—ME



CREAM: CLASSIC ARTISTS

(Image Ent.) **The Gist**

A warts-and-all overview of the short life, and 2005 reunion, of the legendary blues-rock trio. Warty highlight? Drummer Ginger Baker says of bassist Jack Bruce, "I have over the last 12 or 13 years got to dislike Jack more than I ever did before." **The Extras** TV performances from the '60s, photo galleries, and further interviews with Bruce and Eric Clapton. **The Verdict** Thorough and, with Baker's tongue frequently dripping acid, hugely entertaining. **B+**

—CC