

DVD Debris

BY DAVID FEAR



WE JAM ECONO: THE STORY OF THE MINUTEMEN

PLEXIFILM (2005)

Always the odd men out in SoCal's knucklefist punk scene, the pride of San Pedro was a power trio with a preference for jazzy political manifestos over breakneck paces; until singer-guitarist D. Boon's untimely death, the Minutemen served as the missing link between proletariat revolutionaries and pogoing kids. Tim Irwin's portrait of a musical supernova is packed with interviews, vintage clips and bassist Mike Watt's remembrance spiels of things past, but newcomers should proceed directly to the second disc, which features three shows of the boys in their prime. "Our band could be your life," they sang. They still should be.



BRICK

UNIVERSAL (2005)

Rian Johnson's teen noir turns the pulp world of detectives, dames and dopes upside down by dropping the genre's stock characters in high school. So the shamus has to suffer through stern lectures from the principal in addition to beatdowns from bad-guy goons, and the local criminal bigwig has a mom that serves his lackeys apple juice. The whole thing should be *Bugsy Malone Redux*, but Johnson's knack for ring-a-ding dialogue and his refusal to let the cast indulge in a bunch of wink-wink with the audience keeps it working like gangbusters. Not even eggs are this doggedly hardboiled, brother.



THE TRACHTENBERG FAMILY SLIDESHOW PLAYERS: OFF AND ON BROADWAY

SARATHAN (2006)

Jason Trachtenberg may look like Rick Moranis in *Ghostbusters*, his group's drummer may be a 12-year-old girl and the whole idea behind his family band's shows—he and his daughter sing goofy ditties about vacations to Japan and the corporate policies of fast-food juggernauts, while Mom works a mean slide projector—may be a one-trick gimmick. And, like, sincerity is the new irony, yay! But none of that matters once you actually hear the Trachtenberg Family Slideshow Players do their thing. You want eccentric pop bliss? Look no further. Do not try to resist it, people. Superfandom is inevitable.



RUSH: REPLAY X 3

MERCURY/UNIVERSAL (2006)

From the Oldies But Goodies Dept.: Anyone doubting that they'd be getting their money's worth by plunking down dough for this collection of concerts featuring Canada's virtuoso prog-rock dinosaurs, we suggest you go straight to the second disc (from the *Grace Under Pressure* tour). Fast-forward to "YYZ," and wait until Neil Peart does his solo bit about a third of the way into the song. Then watch as that guy in the audience—the one in the headband and Member's Only jacket with the sleeves pushed up—starts air-drumming along in perfect sync. We're getting misty-eyed just thinking about it.

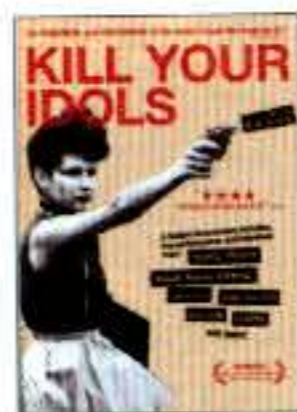


TEGAN AND SARA: IT'S NOT FUN, DON'T DO IT!

VAPOR (2006)

Speaking of the Great White North, here's a quiz: How many Sapphic sibling duos with killer shag haircuts and a penchant for infectious power-pop has the country produced? One, that's right! Disciples of the Quin twins will get an eyeful of their heroes in this densely packed DVD, which features a full live show from Arizona,

a lengthy tour diary full of hijinks and shenanigans, music videos, a behind-the-scenes look at the making of their album *So Jealous* and—by popular demand—key Tegan & Sara moments re-enacted by marionette puppets. Somewhere, Joan Jett is smiling and nodding in approval.



KILL YOUR IDOLS

PALM (2004)

Never mind the new wave revival; it's all about no-wave, that blink-and-you-missed-it movement when noise trumped melody and music's cutting edge was a jagged saw. A nice alt-history to the usual '70s Gotham backstory, S.A. Crary's doc imagines a bizarre world where Swans and Sonic Youth topped the charts; then it flash-forwards to Brooklyn circa 2002, as the Yeah Yeah Yeahs and their fellow *enfant terribles* keep cacophony's flame burning. It skimps on the performance clips, which is a bummer, but where else are you going to get the undiluted wit and wisdom of Lydia Lunch in such delectable doses?



BURN TO SHINE 3

TRIXIE (2006)

The third in Brendan Canty's pyrocentric regional music series travels to Portland, Oregon, where a bunch of local bands get together in a condemned residence, play one song each, and then literally burn the house down. There's something for everyone, especially if your tastes run toward backpack hip-hop (Lifesavas), irony-disco (the Gossip) or prepubescent girls (the Ready). Indie-rock naturally represents in numbers, with the Shins, the Decemberists and Quasi doing what they do best. If you can keep from weeping when the spotlight falls on Sleater-Kinney—officially in the past tense by the time you read this—we applaud your discipline.



BAD BRAINS: LIVE AT CBGB 1982

MVD (1982)

As seminal to punk's history as any gigs by the brothers Ramone, the Bad Brains' 1982 shows at the Bowery shithole have become the stuff of legend. Finally, thanks to this DVD of the D.C. OGs' three-night-stand, you don't have to rely on the word of that old dude at the end of the bar (who swears that H.R. personally perspired on him during "Pay to Cum") about how kick-ass those performances were. The band sounds tighter than hipster's jeans, the old skool Mohawk-ers moshing onstage are museum-worthy, and even the reggae interludes rock bells. Welcome to hardcore's ground zero.



loudQUIETloud: A FILM ABOUT PIXIES

MVD (2006)

Or: Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the Band's Reunion Tour but Were Afraid to Ask. This warts-and-all look at the group's highly anticipated return will remind you why these groundbreakers broke up in the first place. Considering the members' respectively volatile personalities—not to mention the simmering grudges, substance abuse and subzero backstage atmosphere when they're in the same room—it's a freakin' miracle these four musicians managed to play a single song together without immediate implosion. But as the concert scenes attest: give them a stage and everything still clicks like clockwork. Monkeys, you're going to heaven. **F**