

THE PIXIES

loud QUIET loud: a film about The Pixies

MVD Visual

★★★★ out of ★★★★★

I wrote before, on these very pages, that I was not one of the people on this planet that thinks everything Frank Black (Charles Thompson) does is sheer genius. But the new *loud QUIET loud* film about the Pixies sold-out reunion tour may end up making me one of those people, after all.

While there is plenty of live footage, this DVD is not a concert DVD. It's a true film about the band, a group of four of the world's worst communicators, who inspired and transformed a generation of musicians with amazingly brilliant onstage connections. Despite their nearly 11 years apart, the group's members still find themselves in uncomfortable positions based on years of tension, and now they couple it with one sober band member and one who is about to go off the deep end.

loud Quiet loud is an enthralling piece. If you're a Pixies fan you need this DVD and if you're even just slightly interested in them, you need this as well. It'll take you from Pixies newbie to Pixies scholar in 85 minutes.

— Brian F. Johnson



B4MD

Before the Music Dies

Independent

★★★★ out of ★★★★★

There is only one problem with this DVD: The people who really, really NEED to see this film, probably never will.

Filmmakers Andrew Shapter and Joel Rasmussen, two men who had no industry contacts before starting this venture, do an incredible job getting in front of some of today's heaviest hitters in music to tell the story of the music industry today, and its lust for commerce over content, and profits over prophets. They interview everyone from Bonnie Raitt and Dave Matthews to Les Paul and Elvis Costello.

For music fans the film is as sad as *Terms of Endearment* ever was, but it also shows some light at the end of the tunnel, by pointing out that alternative forms of media are flourishing and contain a wealth of opportunities for those not interested in the force-fed crap that is passed off as music in the mainstream world. Brilliant!

— Brian F. Johnson



ROLLING STONES

Truth and Lies

Eagle Media

★★ out of ★★★★★

Truth and Lies could very well be one of the most pointless projects ever completed about the Rolling Stones. For more than an hour, a poor imitation of a BBC announcer drones on about how the Stones have been rock and roll's bad boys for four decades. But the DVD doesn't reveal anything that isn't already known and hasn't been talked about a million times. Yeah, we get it, Keith Richards got busted for drugs. So what? (There are a few minutes of rare footage that are worth seeing, but nothing overly spectacular.)

Save your cash on this one and go purchase another copy of *Exile on Main Street* instead.

— Brian F. Johnson



HOT RIZE

Live at Irving Plaza 4.18.06

Universal Records South

★★★ out of ★★★★★

Without Hot Rize there would probably never have been a Leftover Salmon or a Yonder Mountain String Band. Hot Rize was the pioneering bluegrass band that reached more impressive heights than these other pillars of Colorado bluegrass, and paved the way for thousands of pickers who followed.

The band went its separate ways in 1990 and since then has only performed a handful of special gigs, but in its first DVD — originally filmed in 1987, but just released last month — the four Hot Rize men, along with their oddly humored honky tonk alter-egos Red Knuckles and the Trailblazers, put on an amazing show the way bluegrass should be presented. The video also features some rare interview footage of the members, made particularly funny by the 1987 fashions. Long live the mullet and feathered blown-dry hair!

— Brian F. Johnson

