



DVD

The Pixies
loudQUIET-loud: A Film about THE PIXIES
MVD Visual
\$19.95 list price

The Road to Escondido
J.J. Cale and Eric Clapton
Reprise
\$18.98 list price



DVD

Two aging bluesmen — one ridiculously famous, one ridiculously underappreciated — collaborate on this album that sees Clapton take the back seat to Cale, who wrote 11 of the album's 14 tracks. A few famous friends (keyboardist Billy Preston, John Mayer, Taj Mahal) join the party.

Mellow Okie Cale has always been a subject of Clapton worship (Clapton's solo career is defined by Cale tunes such as "Cocaine" and "After Midnight"). "The Road to Escondido" is littered with low-key Cale grooves and tight Clapton solos.

Though he's an expert guitarist, Cale's bread and butter is the blues shuffle, which might be a bit sleepy for some listeners. This album is a shadow of the collaboration it would have been had it happened when the two artists formed their mutual appreciation society in the '70s.

D.P.

Clapton has more Grammys (18) than Cale has albums (13), but the notoriously reclusive Cale is given the spotlight by Slowhand here.

The Pixies met their end in a most unceremonious way — through a fax sent by frontman Black Francis to the rest of the band after he announced their breakup on BBC Radio. Eleven years later, they got back together for a wildly successful reunion tour, which is captured in this documentary.

Tensions always ran high in The Pixies, and there's a great scene of the four band members sitting in a room in dead silence, unable to talk. In the next frame, Kelley Deal, Kim Deal's sister and fellow Breeder, says, "You four are the worst communicators ever."

The filmmakers had unlimited access to The Pixies, and they pieced together an excellent portrait of four humans who never resolved their differences forced to interact with one another on a daily basis. It is funny, sad and rocking, often all at the same time. For Pixies fans young and old, this film is vital viewing.

As the focus is on the band's reunion tour, there is little archival footage in the film. The Pixies story dates back to the mid-1980s, and while you do get a sense for the band's history, an all-encompassing documentary on the band is still needed — if anything, to hear them play in their prime.

C.D.

One of the deleted scenes included on the DVD shows Frank Black driving a minivan, to which his girlfriend mockingly comments, "He's so angry and interesting, and I think the Grand Caravan reflects that."

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