

Watch the music from Africa to Ireland, Europe to Boston

Ginger Baker — "In Africa"
(Eagle Vision)

In late 1971, after having considerable success as a percussionist in the super-groups Cream and Blind Faith, Ginger Baker abandoned his rock 'n' roll royalty status. He bought one of the first civilian Range Rovers ever manufactured and drove himself across Africa. This roughly hour-long film — produced by noted cinematic documentarian Tony Palmer — captures the drummer as he faces a multitude of trials and tribulations throughout his sojourn across the Sahara. While there, he wants to establish a professional facility for local artists to make their own recordings.



LINDSAY PLANER

As the disc spins

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During the journey, Baker comes in contact with the rich, powerful and all-too-oft cor-



rupt side of Nigeria, which is starkly contrasted by the devastating poverty and social squalor of the residents. Ironically, these oppressive living conditions became the breeding ground for some of the planet's most liberating music. Evidence can be seen, heard and felt here during a high velocity encounter with African talking-drummers from Osogbo.

Johnny Cash — "In Ireland"
(Mercury/UMe)

Though failing health kept him off the road more often than not in his latter years, Johnny Cash is in fine form throughout this Feb. 11, 1993. Here, we find the Man in

Black joined by an extended edition of the Carter Family Revue, along with special guest Kris Kristofferson.

From right out of the starting gate, The Carter Family kicks things off in high gear with "Daddy Sang Bass" and "Keep on the Sunny Side."

And the hits just keep on coming as Cash and company unleash a torrent of essential Americana with "Ring of Fire," "Folsom Prison Blues," "Get Rhythm," "A Boy Named Sue" and "Ghost Riders in the Sky." His duets with wife June Carter Cash on "Jackson" and Kris Kristofferson during "Big River" and "Long Black Veil" are as good as it gets.

Europe — "Live in Sweden: The Final Countdown Tour 1986" (MVD Visual)

Swedish-based rockers Europe had established a following for themselves throughout their homeland by the time that their third LP

"The Final Countdown" jettisoned the hair metal mavens into multi-platinum sellers and international chart-toppers. This disc commemorates the 20th anniversary of that album with a 13-song concert in Stockholm on May 26, 1986.

The show kicks off with the anthemic title track "The Final Countdown" before blazing through other key LP sides such as "Rock the Night," "Ninja," "Cherokee," "Time Has Come" and "On the Loose." One specific standout is their note-perfect reading of the power ballad "Carrie."

Pixies — "Club Date: Live at the Paradise in Boston" (Eagle Vision)

The unexpected reunion of The Pixies took the music world by pleasant surprise. On this DVD, our alt-rock heroes and heroine are bringing it all back home to the cozy confines of Beantown's Paradise club. The Aug. 8, 2005 gig was billed as a "secret show" and a gathered mass of about 200 were treated to this intense 29-song set.

They slam, careen and glide through classic after classic, getting to an auspicious start with "La La Love You," and the far-too-rarely revisited remake of Neil Young's "Winterlong." Filling out the show is "Caribou," "Vamos," "Isla de Encantata" and "Nimrod's Son" from the "Come On Pilgrim" EP as well as "Broken Face," "Gigantic," "River Euphrates" and "Where is My Mind?" from the follow-up "Surfer Rosa."

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