



Rockers

25th Anniversary Addition

Rockers is the basic tale of man versus Mafia with a Robin Hood twist, except here the story is set in Kingston, Jamaica, and the protagonist is a drummer in a reggae band. One of the three great films concerning Jamaican life and Rastafarian culture, including *The Harder They Come* and *Countryman*, *Rockers* tells the story of Horsemouth, a burgeoning independent record distributor, and his struggle to exact revenge on the men who stole his motorcycle. The story is sufficiently acted by such reggae legends as Winston "Burning Spear" Rodney, Gregory Isaacs, Robbie Shakespeare and the film's hero, Leroy "Horsemouth" Wallace, among others. The real treat here is the wealth of music and performances contributed by those same musicians turned actors. Featuring an almost anthropological look at Jamaican life circa the late '70s, *Rockers* delivers both a compelling, if stoner-paced, narrative and a great documentary of the golden age of reggae music. Extras include an interview with director Theodoros Bafaloukos, director's commentary, a patois glossary, new videos, original trailers and radio advertisements. —Allan Martin Kemler

MusicVideoDistributors.com

Marc Bolan: T.Rex

Born To Boogie

He ain't no square, with his corkscrew hair, but what does anyone really know about the man behind glitter rock legend T.Rex? His life tragically cut short in a car accident in 1977, Marc Bolan ruled the English pop charts in the early '70s with a string of stomping hits like "Hot Love," "Bang A Gong" and "Jeepster." But little else is known about the man whose success was once likened to the second coming of Beatlemania. While *Born to Boogie* doesn't do much to shed any light on the former folk guitarist turned glam rocker's life, it does showcase two live performances at the height of his career in 1972. Filmed at the Empire Pool in Wembley on March 18, *Born to Boogie* delivers over an hour's worth of concert footage interposed with numerous surrealistic (read: silly) asides featuring Ringo Starr and Elton John (one of which was filmed at John Lennon's Tittenhurst Park estate). This video has been available in the form of high-generation dubs for years, so it's nice to see the film get the restoration and remix treatment. The best parts are the documentary hosted by Bolan's son, Rolan, and the interviews with T.Rex producer and Bowie sideman Tony Visconti. For those who just can't get enough, both the afternoon and evening concerts are presented in their entirety. —Allan Martin Kemler

SanctuaryRecordsGroup.com

Style Wars

Directed By Tony Silver

By the early '70s, graffiti artists had begun moving beyond mere tags in favor of turning out larger pieces known as burners all over New York's five boroughs. After a decade of losing the battle against blight, the MTA decided it had had enough and decided to fight back. This is the fascinating ground against which *Style Wars* unfolds. Featuring dozens of interviews with graffiti artists and New York civil and transportation authorities, director Tony Silver's documentary captures a halcyon time in hip hop culture's adolescence. Although the film mainly deals with the Us vs. Them aspects of the cultural battle, a side narrative includes the stories of New York's top B-Boy crews—Rock Steady Crew and Dynamic Rockers—and their relationships to hip hop and graffiti writing in general. While the film is captivating from a historical point of view, *Style Wars* is at least as compelling for documenting the amazing drive for self-expression these artists exhibit and the brilliant way they appropriated spaces and materials to pursue and refine their individual styles. Disc two of this set includes 32 artist galleries, tributes to Dondi and Shy 147, as well as a guest interview with Fab Five Freddy and music from El-P, RJD2 and Aesop Rock. —Allan Martin Kemler

StyleWars.com

Drive Well, Sleep Carefully

On The Road With Death Cab For Cutie

Formed in Bellingham, Wash., in 1997, Death Cab for Cutie has become one of the most popular indie bands of all time. Selling over 300,000 copies of its *Transatlanticism* record, accompanied by two world tours, the eight-year-old quartet possesses an enduring appeal beyond the vagaries of the indie hothouse. Using a combination of live footage and personal interviews recorded in Seattle, director Justin Mitchell (*Songs for Cassavetes*, *Dirty Old Town*) captures the band's average-guy charm and juxtaposes it with 13 masterful performances of what Rilo Kiley's Jenny Lewis describes as its, "accessible then resonant" sound. Some of the self-serious dialogue can be a bit too earnest to take for non-fans, however everyone else will likely enjoy hearing Ben, Chris, Nick and Jason talk about the "emotional roller coaster" that is a rock 'n roll tour. Of course, most rock 'n roll documentaries are generally boring anyway, so if you're not a fan don't expect to be blown away by the group's insights or candor. But if you just want to know what makes the men behind *We Have the Facts and We're Voting Yes* tick, then this is your film. —Allan Martin Kemler

Plexifilm.com