

MUSIC

Charles' Cavett programs captured on DVD

This week, we're turning our attention to recently released music-related films, documentaries and performances, all of which hit store shelves over the past few weeks.

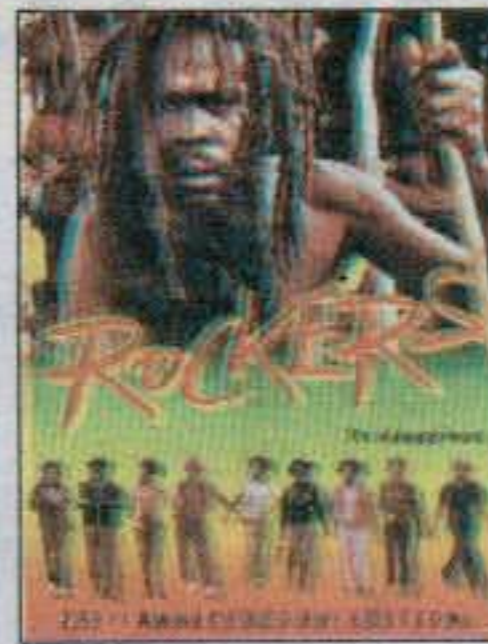
"Dick Cavett Show: The Ray Charles Collection" (Shout! Factory)

This is the second multi-DVD installment in "The Dick Cavett Show" from the folks at Shout! Factory, with many more to come. Cavett has been involved with practically every aspect of these releases, providing newly produced introductions to each episode. One of the true hallmarks of the DVD program is that it's offered in its entirety. And with the exception of having no commercials between the segments, it is just like viewers at home would have experienced it.

Ray Charles' debut guest spot on June 26, 1972 was shared with actor Tony Randall and anthropologist/author Margaret Mead. Brother Ray tears up the place with an emotional version of "America the Beautiful." There is also a swinging rendition of Oscar Peterson's "Blues For Big Scotia."

At the on-air request of the host, Ray and Cavett spent an entire program together in mid-September 1972. Charles is joined by his female backing trio, The Raeletts and they work through seven tunes throughout the course of the evening. Standouts include the R&B classic "I Feel So Bad," Charles' signatures "Georgia on My Mind," "I Can't Stop Loving You," a funky cover of the Beatles' "Eleanor Rigby," as well as "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

The final entry took place July 9, 1973, and Charles once again was one of several guests, including New York City Mayor John Lindsay. Charles does



something old ("I Feel So Bad") and something new that he'd never done on the show before ("Born to Lose"), closing as always with Cavett comparatively screeching his way through "Am I Blue."

Jimi Hendrix — "Live At Woodstock" (Experience Hendrix/UMe)

Like so many, I too purchased each of the previous incarnations and revisitations of Jimi Hendrix' performance at the Woodstock Music and Arts Fair. And indeed there have been quite a few over the past three decades. Finally, due care has been taken to restore Hendrix' concert to mirror the way it actually went down.

The main attraction is a freshly-remastered edition offered with a choice of a 2.0 stereo, a 5.1 Dolby Surround or a DTS Surround audio track.

On Disc Two, things get interesting with a total of six separate features. Primary among them is the full-length "Jimi Hendrix At Woodstock: A Second Look." It is indeed a treat to get a side stage vantage point — albeit in black and white — fused together with unused color pro shots. Plus, the stereo and surround soundtracks are again provided to sweeten the overall presentation. For many, the highlight will be seeing "Hear My Train a Comin'" — the only song that has remained either unavailable or unusable on all previous versions of Hendrix at Woodstock.

Speaking of tunes, familiar favorites such as "Foxy Lady" and "Fire" are in-

terspersed with newer tracks "Message of Love," "Villanova Junction" and his controversial "The Star Spangled Banner" solo linking

"Voodoo Child (Slight Return)" to a show-stopping "Purple Haze."

"Rockers: 25th Anniversary Edition" (Music Video Distributors)

2005 marks the silver anniversary of the seminal reggae motion picture "Rockers". In traditional Rastafarian custom, a grand celebration is underway and it looks like we're getting all the party favors. Specifically, this "25th Anniversary Edition" is completely overhauled and augmented sonically as well as visually. For starters, one major complaint about the previous video tape version was the grainy picture and generally poor fidelity of the sound. Both have been significantly upgraded using a new transfer lifted right from the original 35mm print. Considering that "Rockers" is a low budget independent movie, it remains one of the best examples of the perilous and practically third world society that existed in mid 20th-century Jamaica. In light of that, a bounty of fresh and positive sonic vibrations weaved the various cultural factions together as the denizens were busy pulling it apart.

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LINDSAY PLANER

As the disc spins

IN BRIEF

Tickets for Bon Jovi concert on sale Saturday

Rock icons Bon Jovi will bring its Have A Nice Day World Tour to the Charlotte Bobcats Arena in Charlotte on Jan. 18. Tickets go on sale Saturday at 10 a.m.

Tickets will be available online at charlottebobcatsarena.com, bonjovi.aeglive.com or by calling 1-800-495-2295. Tickets also can be purchased in person at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center ticket outlet.

This will be Bon Jovi's first tour since 2003 and will take them around the world through 2006.

For more information on Bon Jovi

CD REVIEW

Sheryl Crow, "Wildflower" (A&M)

Point to ponder while contemplating Sheryl Crow's new "Wildflower" CD: will a bad review earn a set of tread marks on my back?

Time to run. Don't be deceived into thinking that big rock on Crow's finger courtesy of fiancée Lance Armstrong will result in a giddy album of love songs. Instead, this disc is downbeat and downright boring.

Crow is 43 now, beyond the point where all you wanna do is have some fun. She's brooding over the big issues of life, love, loyalty and mortality, and that's more than understandable. It's just harder to make that into engaging

become very successful in a style that's no longer fashionable.

Here, you slog through seven earnest, mid-tempo songs until there's a sign of life: "Live it Up" has Crow urging someone to not let life pass them by, and it has the disc's strongest hook and quickest pace. "Always on Your Side" is the best of the rest, a stately ballad that benefits from stripping the music down.

Otherwise, the production is simultaneously busy and rather anonymous, unwisely emphasizing Crow's thin vocals.

Perhaps "Wildflower" has a few seeds that will take time to grow. Pass

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