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Sucker Punched At The Box Office





JAMES BROWN: BODY HEAT LIVE IN MONTEREY 1979 (\$19.95; Gravity/Wienerworld)

COUNT BASIE: THEN AS NOW, COUNT'S THE KING (\$14.95; MVD)

DUKE ELLINGTON: REMINISCING IN TEMPO (\$14.95; MVD)

A HISTORY LESSON PART 1: PUNK ROCK IN LOS ANGELES (\$14.95; Historical Records) -

Here are four pretty shoddy music releases, all subpar in audio and picture and of only minimal interest for even hardcore fans of the genre or artist involved. The James Brown concert footage comes from a show in 1979 when he did the first of many comebacks. It's poorly shot and has worse sound; most of the time you're just staring at Brown's head while he sings. The Count and Duke are just glorified roundtables with artists that played with them, interspersed with old footage and (mostly) old stills. it's fun to see these artists chat but their casual anecdotes and some stills do not a documentary film make. *History Lesson* contains interviews and very poorly shot concert footage, covering bands like The Meat Puppets, Red Kross, The Minutemen and Twisted Roots. Some major acts who deserve better.