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Thursday, Mar. 29, 2012

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Sound check: Audio-visual energy with a country singer and classic performances from German TV

Highlights include "I Wish I Was Your Mother" (with Ronson on mandolin); "Angeline," another slow one; the two audience-participation tunes "Cleveland Rocks" and "Just Another Night;" a fairly faithful "All the Young Dudes;" and the short finale of "Slaughter on 10th Avenue."

Mott, Hunter and Ronson fans will want to snag this one.

'Rockpalast,' Roy Buchanan (MVDvisual, HHHH)

This Feb. 24, 1985, show by "the world's best unknown guitarist," Roy Buchanan and his band (John Steele/keyboards and guitar, Anthony Dunn/bass and drummer Martin Yule), is one of few live shows filmed in his career. He was wanted by the Rolling Stones to replace Brian Jones and Eric Clapton tried to enlist him in Derek & The Dominoes. He played with future Jefferson Airplane drummer Spencer Dryden, toured with Dale Hawkins and played with Robbie Robertson, who names him as an important influence.

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GALLERY: [Sound check Audio-visual energy with a country singer and classic performances from German TV](#)

Highlights include the opener, “Thing in G (Short Fuse),” a wonderful take on “Sweet Dreams,” a rockin’ “Peter Gunn” that was missing its usual beat, two Hendrix tributes and a nifty bunch of instrumentals ending with “Wayfaring Pilgrim.”

Roy’s life ended with suicide three years later, but this is a good way to remember a guitar giant.

‘Rockpalast,’ Michael Schenker Group (MVDvisual, HHHH)

This concert was filmed Jan. 24, 1981, and features one of the strongest of MSG’s many lineups: Schenker/guitar, Gary Barden/vocals, Chris Glen/bass, Paul Raymond/keyboards & guitar and Cozy Powell on drums. Though Barden’s stage mannerisms and vocals on the UFO songs are occasionally bothersome, this is one of the best hard rock shows I’ve recently seen.

Highlights include four UFO tunes (“Natural Thing,” “Doctor Doctor,” “Rock Bottom” and

“Lights Out”) plus MSG first album tunes like “Lost Horizons,” “Armed and Ready” and the blistering instrumental “Into the Arena.”

This is a great one for fans of classic metal.

Pre-punk postscript Part 2

West, Bruce and Laing was a super group consisting of Leslie West (guitar/vocals), former Cream member Jack Bruce (bass, harp, keyboards and vocals) and West’s Mountain bud Corky Laing (drums/vocals). They formed in 1972 after the disbandment of Mountain. Cream’s sound strongly influenced Mountain.

WB&L toured and released two studio albums, 1972’s “Why Dontcha” and 1973’s “Whatever Turns You On,” but disbanded before releasing “Live n’ Kickin’” in 1974.

West and Laing reunited in a reformation of Mountain in 1985 and have continued playing together ever since. West will likely reunite with Laing once he recovers from last year’s leg amputation.

Ricky Flake, a former punk rocker and current music fan, lives in Biloxi.

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