

DVD SNAPSHOT

Documentary/Music Spotlight (DVD Review)

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Mike Spring - Editor
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Oh, man, it's Monday morning. Sort of. Except not really.
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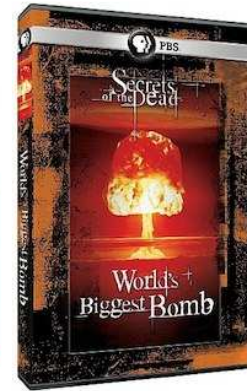
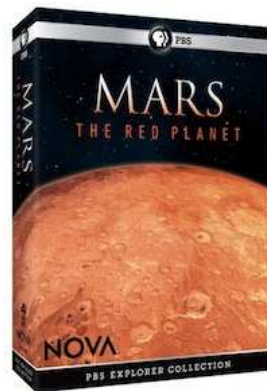
@grumpyboston No problem, and thanks for the kind words. No word yet on a @DonnieWahlberg interview, but I'll keep trying! :)
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@odle2 And that's why I do them! :)
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We have a ton of new documentary releases to look at in this review, including a bunch of music and baseball DVDs, but first... some science!

First up, from PBS, we have **Mars: The Red Planet** box set and **Secrets of the Dead: World's Biggest Bomb**.

Mars: The Red Planet includes four NOVA specials on everyone's favorite planet: **Mars: Dead or Alive, Welcome to Mars, Is There Life on Mars?** and **Can We Make it to Mars?**. It's a pretty cool

collection of documentaries, a lot of it speculative science rather than hard fact, but if you have an interest in astronomy or just Mars in general, this is a nice affordable way to satisfy that curiosity.

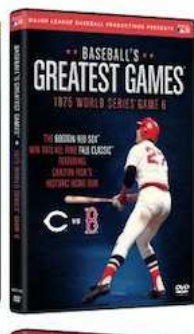
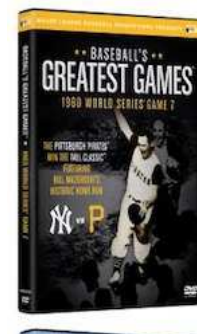
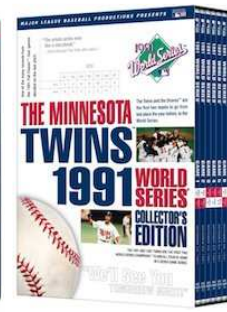
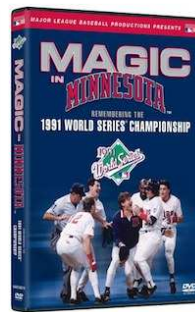
The World's Biggest Bomb is another entry in the terrific **Secrets of the Dead** series, narrated by Liev Schreiber. This one basically focuses on the arms race and the competition between the U.S. and the Soviet Union in the '50s to build the world's biggest, most powerful bombs. It's interesting stuff, and occasionally a bit scary, too.

A&E Home entertainment has a ton of new releases this month, clearly trying to capitalize on the upcoming World Series fervor.

The most current one is **Baseball's Greatest Games: Derek Jeter's 3,000th Hit**, which documents over the course of three hours

the milestone hit by everyone's favorite Yankee. You see the game, the hit, the crowd reaction... pretty much everything you could hope for if you're a Yankees fan or just a fan of baseball history. Extra features include the post-game press conference plus highlights of Derek's most memorable career moments.

For Minnesota Twins fans, there are two new releases celebrating the team's historic 1991 World Series championship. The massive box set **1991 World Series** lets you relive every single minute of the entire World Series, while **Magic in Minnesota** is a special that celebrates the 20th anniversary of the championship and brings you all of the best highlights, rather than every game in its entirety. Either choice is great for Twins fans, it really just depends on how obsessive you are.



Finally, A&E also has a huge collection of new installments in the Baseball's Greatest Games series, with 10 new releases all strutting at the same time. The games/discs are as follows:

1960 World Series Game 7: Pittsburgh Pirates vs New York Yankees
1975 World Series Game 6: Boston Red Sox vs Cincinnati Reds
1979 Wrigley Field Slugfest: Philadelphia Phillies vs Chicago Cubs
1985 NLCS Game 5: St. Louis Cardinals vs Los Angeles Dodgers
1986 World Series Game 6: New York Mets vs Boston Red Sox

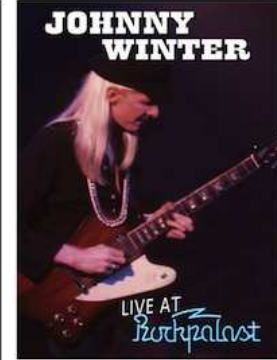
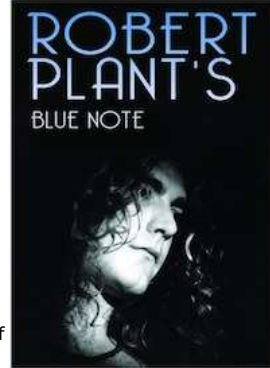
1991 World Series Game 7: Minnesota Twins vs

Atlanta Braves
 1992 NLCS Game 7: Pittsburgh Pirates vs Atlanta Braves
 1993 World Series Game 6: Toronto Blue Jays vs Philadelphia Phillies
 2003 ALCS Game 7: Boston Red Sox vs New York Yankees
 2004 ALCS Game 4: Boston Red Sox vs New York Yankees

What's nice about these is you can pick and choose the games that are of interest to you, or if you're a baseball historian, you can dive in and watch them all. Each one includes the complete game, newly synchronized to the radio play-by-play of the game.

There are also plenty of new music releases this month, including **Robert Plant's Blue Note**, **Johnny Winter Live At Rockpalast**, **Peter Paul and Mary: 25th Anniversary Concert**, **Marvin Hamlisch Presents The 70's: The Way We Were**, and **Live From Tokyo**.

Robert Plant's Blue Note is kind of the typical unauthorized biography. It does run about two-and-a-half hours, so that's a bonus for Plant fans, and it covers his pre-Zeppelin days, his Zeppelin era, and his solo career. There are some recent interviews with the rock icon and even a little performance footage, but ultimately its for die-hard fans who aren't looking for anything too insightful.



Johnny Winter Live At Rockpalast is a concert DVD from Germany, circa 1979. It's always hard to review concert DVDs from musicians you're not into. I don't dislike Johnny Winter, it's just not my kind of music. This seems like a pretty good show for fans of the musician's, taken from closer to his heyday than a new concert would be. Also, look for a couple of Rolling Stones covers thrown in, which is a nice little treat.

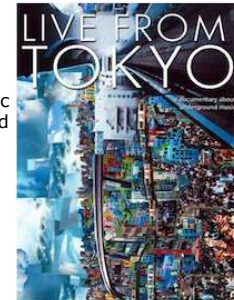


Peter, Paul and Mary: 25th Anniversary Concert is the first-ever DVD release of the trio's famed PBS concert from 1986. With such hit songs as If I Had A Hammer, Puff, The Magic Dragon, Blowin' In The Wind, and Leaving On A Jet Plane, this is a great set from the group when they were not quite at the height of their popularity, but from when they'd been around long enough to have a deep list of hits to draw from. Fans should enjoy this release quite a bit.

Marvin Hamlisch Presents The 70's: The Way We Were is an

interesting disc, and fans of '70s music will love it. It's a recent convert in which the legendary composer gathered several '70s icon for a one-night concert event of hits and nostalgia. Performers include Gloria Gaynor, Debby Boone, Bobby Goldsboro, Freda Payne, Guy & Ralna, Jonathan Edwards, Marilyn McCoo & Billy Davis Jr, Peaches & Herb, Ray Stevens, and Three Dog Night, all singing solo hits and sharing the stage at times. I'm not a huge fan of '70s music, but I can see where this disc would be a treasure for people who are. There's also an accompanying soundtrack CD, available separately.

Finally, we have **Live From Tokyo**. If names like DMBQ, d.v.d, Kirihiro and Kurucrew mean something to you, then this is definitely a disc you'll want to check out. This documentary from director Lewis Rapkin takes us into the Japanese underground music scene, which is extremely different from the American music scene. With interviews, music videos, and live performances mixed together, this is a vibrant, colorful, and interesting film about a culture that's pretty foreign to most Americans. Overall, this is a pretty cool film, and I think people will be fascinated by how the music scene works over there.



- Mike Spring
 Editor



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