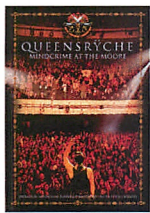


very end of the two-hour show), the band plays several other fine tunes from their catalog, including "Shine on Brightly," "Grand Hotel," "Homburg," "A Salty Dog," and "Conquistador," all from their late '60s–early '70s heyday. The characteristic stately tempos, piano-organ textures, wailing guitar solos, and progressive-pop-rock feel all put the band in the same general category as Jethro Tull. While songs from the 2003 recording *The Well's on Fire*—including "Every Dog Will Have His Day" and "Wall Street Blues"—are more dynamic, Procol Harum is a group that tends to plod more than it rocks or rolls. The band's longtime fans—and after more than 40 years, there are plenty of them—will be pleased, but this probably won't attract many new adherents. Presented in DTS-HD 5.1, Dolby Digital 5.1, and LPCM stereo, Blu-ray extras include an interview with Booker, a video montage, and fan comments. Recommended. (S. Graham)

### Queensrÿche: Mindcrime at the Moore ★★★★★

(2006) 179 min. Blu-ray: \$19.98. Eagle Rock Entertainment (avail. from most distributors).



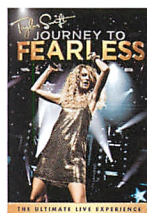
Although heavy metal fans herald the band Queensrÿche as genre-jumping pioneers, mainstream music lovers may only recognize the name from the group's influential 1988 album, *Operation: Mindcrime*. Utilizing the concept/rock opera format, Queensrÿche—consisting of longtime members Geoff Tate (vocals), Michael Wilton (guitars), Eddie Jackson (bass), and Scott Rockenfield (drums)—created in *Operation: Mindcrime* a timely statement on individual isolation and alienation. After an equally successful sequel in 2006, the band decided to stage the entire *Mindcrime* "experience" in a 30-plus song set at the Moore Theatre on their home turf in Seattle. With special guests such as the late Ronnie James Dio and Pamela Moore, the progressive outfit crafted a truly special concert, with outstanding renditions of songs like "Revolution Calling" and "Speed of Light." Employing massive stage screens spouting messages and meaningful sequences from the albums' storyline (incorporating jabs at politicians, political parties, and corporations), Queensrÿche managed to superbly integrate their sonic statement with the high quality visuals. Presented in DTS-HD 5.1, Dolby Digital 5.1, and LPCM stereo, Blu-ray extras include a tour documentary, a music video, and a clip of the band on a fundraising bike ride. Highly recommended. (B. Gibson)

### Taylor Swift: Journey to Fearless ★★★★★

(2011) 135 min. DVD: \$16.98. Shout! Factory (avail. from most distributors). ISBN: 978-1-60399-677-8 (dvd).

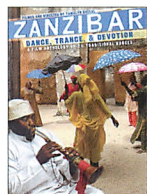
Designed to capitalize on the success of

Taylor Swift's multi-platinum album *Fearless*, this concert film combines live performances and interviews, with the first half focusing on the singer's past, while the second goes behind the scenes of her debut headlining tour. Between songs, Swift, mother Andrea, and best friend Abigail offer commentary. Home-movie footage underscores the fact that Swift was musical from an early age, although her talent made elementary school difficult because classmates weren't supportive—unlike her parents, who moved the family to Nashville, where Swift secured a record deal with upstart Big Machine (after rejecting a less advantageous offer from RCA). Swift, who also talks about the inspirations behind songs like "Fifteen" and "Teardrops on My Guitar," begins the show portion dressed as a majorette to sing "You Belong With Me," eventually removing the uniform to reveal a mirrored shift. Other songs include "Tim McGraw" and "Hey Stephen," after which she hugs audience members, most of whom are young women. Swift also mingles with fans at after-show "T-Parties," where she recognizes the most devoted concert-goers. Throughout the 15-month *Fearless* trek, Swift dons more cowboy boots and tasteful dresses, including a medieval princess gown for "Today Was a Fairytale," while also wielding a couple of sparkly guitars. Presented in DTS 5.1, Dolby Digital 5.1 and stereo, this is recommended. [Note: Best Buy is selling an exclusive Blu-ray edition priced at \$21.98.] (K. Fennesy)



### Zanzibar: Trance, Dance, & Devotion ★★★★★

(2011) 80 min. DVD: \$39.95. Dance on Film (avail. from www.danceofilm.info). PPR. ISBN: 978-09795155-9-0.



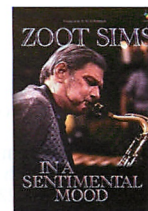
This collection features 26 live performances shot in Zanzibar, a largely Muslim island state in Tanzania. As filmmaker, cinematographer, and dancer Tamalyn Dallal explains in the introduction, she worked with the folkloric troupe Kariako for two years to compile the material. Throughout, Dallal provides unobtrusive commentary regarding the steps, costumes, languages, instruments, and facial markings (such as paint and piercings). Subtitles translate the lyrics, which can be amusing, as in "You are skinny, but you are arrogant" and "If you have a funny head, the hairdresser has trouble." For the people of this East African territory, each dance holds a distinct significance, although Dallal admits that even the participants in the Mwanandege ritual have no idea why umbrellas are involved; nonetheless, they feel strongly about preserving such traditions. Other dances recognize or celebrate

sexuality, marriage, harvest, rites of passage, political ceremonies, and the treatment of diseases (fortunately for viewers who may be animal lovers, Dallal doesn't film the killing of a chicken for the Kilua dance). For the most part, these aren't particularly difficult or complex routines, but there's plenty of joy throughout, with the possible exception of the trance sequences, which involve sheitans (spirits) who seem to possess some performers. Before her final edit, Dallal showed each tribe or village her footage to make sure she had represented each aspect correctly. DVD extras include a filmed segment of an acrobatic display that draws from Chinese traditions. A fine multidisciplinary title that incorporates history, religion, geography, and ethnomusicology, this is recommended. Aud: C, P. (K. Fennesy)

### Zoot Sims: In a Sentimental Mood

★★★

(2010) 51 min. DVD: \$14.95. Music Video Distributors (avail. from most distributors).



"If I can't play music, what am I gonna do?" John "Zoot" Sims says at one point during this 1984 performance; fortunately, he never had to figure that one out. Although rarely considered one of the greatest, the tenor saxophonist nevertheless displayed many of the attributes of Lester Young, Ben Webster, Stan Getz, and other more celebrated players, including a warm tone, beautiful vibrato, and an effortless, swinging way with improvisation. Recorded in the library of Sonet Records in Lidingö, Sweden, this is an intimate trio session, matching Sims with fine bassist Red Mitchell and fluid guitarist Rune Gustafsson for chamber-style sound. The repertoire includes a laidback rendition of Duke Ellington's title tune, an extended "Gone with the Wind," a leisurely stroll with "Sweet Lorraine," and "Autumn Leaves" (one of the most standard of standards). The sound is crisp and clear, the playing excellent (Mitchell is an entertaining, inventive performer who infuses his solos with humor), and the ensemble communication spot-on. Presented in Dolby Digital stereo, extras include Mitchell's lighthearted interview of Sims, who recounts his long career, noting that "Music keeps people sane ... Musicians don't get into too much trouble—if they can blow, and if they enjoy blowing." Recommended. (S. Graham)

### Opera Goes 3D

*Carmen in 3D* (Blu-ray: \$39.99) captures Francesca Zambello's 2010 staging of Bizet's 1875 workhorse at London's Royal Opera House, featuring Christine Rice and Bryan Hymel.

