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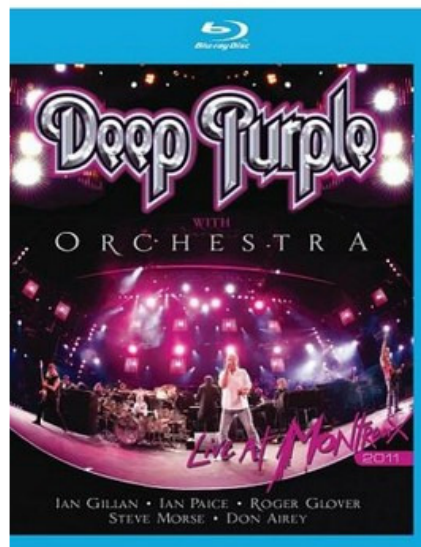
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IN STORES SOON

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- > War Horse (2011/Disney/DreamWorks Blu-ray w/DVD)
- > A Night To Remember (1958/Criterion Blu-ray)/Titanic: The Complete Story (History Channel/A&E DVDs)/Titanic: The Definitive Documentary Collection (Mill Creek DVDs)
- > The Descendants (2011/Fox Blu-ray w/DVD)/Jitters (2010/TLA DVD)/Loosies (2011/IFC/MPI DVD)/Sidewalls (2011/aka Medianeras/Sundance Select/MPI DVD)
- > Camel Spiders (2011/Anchor Bay Blu-ray)/Zaat (1971/aka Blood Waters Of Dr. Z/Cultura/Film Chest Blu-ray w/DVD)
- > Murder Investigation Team: Series Two (2004/Acorn DVD Set)/Out (1978/Acorn DVD set)/Single-Handed: Set Two (2008 - 2009/Acorn DVD Set)/The Killing: The Complete First Season (2011/Fox Blu-ray)
- > Bob: The Complete Series (1992 - 1993/CBS DVD Set)/Call Me Fitz: The Complete Second Season (2010 - 2011/E1 DVD)

Chet Baker: Candy
(1985 Live/MVD DVD)/**Deep Purple w/Orchestra: Live At Montreux 2011** (Eagle Blu-ray)/**Jerry Lewis as The Jazz Singer** (1959/Inception DVD)/**Limelight** (2011/Magnolia DVD)/**Thunder Soul** (2010/Lionsgate DVD)

Picture: C/B-/C+/C+/C+
Sound: C+/B/C+/C+/C+
Extras: C/C+/C/C/B Main Programs: B-/B-/B-/B/B



This latest set of music releases make for more interesting viewing than the usual releases, so they seemed like a good fit to group together.

The great **Chet Baker: Candy** is the artist performing one of his most famous albums, except this is a long-missing live 1985 performance joined by Jean-Louis Rassinofosse, Michel Graillier and Red Mitchell. Lasting about an hour (including some talk), it is a fine later performance by the legend and fans will enjoy catching up to this one after only possibly hearing about its existence (or just hearing the audio) and is worth your time. An illustrated booklet with essay and other information inside the DVD case is the only extra.

Continuing to issue as much material on home video as any music act I can name, **Deep Purple w/Orchestra: Live At Montreux 2011** follows their recent **Phoenix Rising** Blu-ray as one of only three we have covered, which you can read more about at this link:

<http://www.fulvuedrive-in.com/review/11043/Bad+Company+%E2%80%93+Live+A>

This is a better program than that one, though I would give an edge to the **Live At Montreux 2006** Blu-ray (also reviewed elsewhere on this site) and add that throwing in an orchestra seemed like an idea to mix things up, but it holds back the overall concert in unexpected ways. They can pretty much still play their classics old and new, but this variation just did not cut it for me. The 18 tracks here are fine for what they are, but I would recommend the **2006** Blu-ray still as the best Purple on Blu to date. Still, the bonus interview here fans might like and Eagle has included a paper pullout with illustrations and some text.

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Set)/Come Fly With Me: Season One (2011/BBC DVD Set)
 > Disclosure (1994)/9½ Weeks (Uncut/1986)/Striptease (1996/Warner Blu-rays)/The Sitter (2011/Fox Blu-ray w/DVD)
 > Jean Renoir Collector's Edition (1925 – 1962 incl. Nana, La Marseillaise, Jekyll/Hyde (as Dr. Cordelier), Elusive Corporal/Lionsgate DVDs)/The Rules Of The Game (1939/Criterion Blu-ray)/Swamp Water (1

IN STORES NOW

> Archer – The Complete Season Two (2011/Fox Blu-ray) + Adventure Time: It Came From the Nightosphere (Warner DVD) + Super Jail! – Season Two (Adult Swim/Warner DVD) + Delocated! – Season 1 & 2 (Adult S
 > Doctor Who: The Doctor, The Widow, and the Wardrobe (2011/BBC Blu-ray)
 > Champions (2008/Lionsgate DVD)
 > Letter Never Sent (1959/Criterion Collection Blu-ray)
 > Robin Of Sherwood: Set 2 (1983/Acorn Media U.S. Blu-ray Set)
 > Magic Beyond Worlds: The J.K. Rowling Story (A&E DVD)
 > French Fields: The Complete Collection (Acorn Media DVD Set)
 > Tennessee Tuxedo and His Tales – The Complete Collection (1963) + Underdog – Complete Collector's Edition (1964/Shout! Factory DVD Sets)
 > Outrage (2010/Magnolia/MagNet Blu-ray)
 > Family (2006/MVD Visual DVD)
 > Rifftrax Live: Reefers Madness/Plan 9 From Outer Space/House of Haunted Hill (Legend Blu-rays)
 > Blade of Kings (2004/aka The Twins Effect II/Well Go USA Blu-ray w/DVD)
 > Neverland (2011/Vivendi DVD) + The Three Musketeers (2011/Summit Blu-ray3D/Blu-ray)
 > J. Edgar (2011/Warner Blu-ray + DVD + Ultraviolet Copy)
 > A Very Harold and Kumar 3-D Christmas (2011/Warner Blu-ray 3D + Blu-ray + DVD + Ultraviolet Copy)

Another music program on tape thought lost but now found is **Jerry Lewis as The Jazz Singer** (1959) in which the comic legend takes on Al Jolson's classic, controversial 1927 blockbuster film role (reviewed elsewhere on this site, it is the film that broke sound in movies and also had Jolson in blackface!) and this only runs an hour, yet is as effective as that and the 1980 Neil Diamond features as far as I am concerned. Odder and more interesting is Lewis wears a clown face that only partly covers his face and barely qualifies as blackface, but maybe could be considered that somewhat. However, it is too possibly creepy and odd to simply label, especially in context to the religious politics happening here as he wants to be a secular entertainer and his cantor father considers it a betrayal of their faith. This was made in 1959 and happens to be one of the earliest color videotape programs and certainly one of the earliest still in existence. You get that version restored, plus a black and white kinescope version, but more on that in a minute. This is very impressive and worth going out of your way for. Extras include a featurette on restoring the color version and a stills gallery.

This brings us to two very well-made documentaries that deal with music in important ways. Billy Corben's **Limelight** (2011) tells the story of the rise and fall of Peter Gaten, a Canadian man who actually lost an eye as a teen and took his settlement money to invest in a series of clubs that had far more success than failure. Eventually by the later 1980s, he started to conquer New York and with four grand locales, he owned New York Nightlife, took over the scene and quietly became the successor to the excitement and wildness that Studio 54, CBGBs (still existent at that time) and other legendary locales were once known for. This included introducing House Music and Electronica that had not been heard in the U.S. before and what followed was drugs, new drugs, scandals, the rise of Club Kids and massive financial success. Then it gets challenged by a change of events...


The title refers to Gaten's biggest club, but also his fame and this is as much a character study of him and the nightlife as it is of New York City eventually transitioning from sleazy to reborn. However, there is much more to this and gives us a rare look at a period that has been more censored by the mainstream than you might think. This too is worth going out of your way for. Extras include a trailer and deleted scenes worth seeing after the feature.

Last but definitely not least is Mark Landsman's **Thunder Soul** (2010) about the tremendous success of a High School band that became so proficient so quickly in band music, Jazz and Funk that their recordings sound fresh decades after their 1970s debut and it also led to album releasing and international touring at a time when racial strife was red hot after The Civil Rights Movement had its early triumphs. Coming from Texas (Kashmere High School to be exact) made it more problematic, but their Professor Conrad Johnson believed his class and young people in general could play like the most skilled professionals if they were taught well and he gave up a potentially huge professional music career to marry and stay in his neighborhood to prove it. He sure did!

Fast forward to now and "Prof" as he is known is still around in his 90s and unknown to him at first, two of the local members of the original band decide to contact all the members to do a reunion show as a surprise tribute to him. The result is an unforgettable journey into music, American life, history and the power of the arts that reminds us of how good things used to be in America and what has been lost in a certain kind of shuffling about since the 1980s. It also speaks for so many countless such bands in and out of school from that era doing all kinds of music (no matter if they were good and/or recorded any material) that are a lost part of our culture.

For anyone serious about music, this is such a must-see program that I know I will be talking about it for a long time and as often happens with something great that did not get to be the hit it deserved to be, I know people will start walking up to me and asking me about it any time now. Extras include a trailer, 17 minutes of a vintage film about the band with interview footage (especially of Professor Johnson) that is great and a fine

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feature length audio commentary by Landsman and Editor Claire Didier round out a great disc.

As expected, the 1080i 1.78 X 1 digital High Definition image transfer on **Purple** is the best-looking of the five releases her being the only Blu-ray, but it had more than a few moments where there was noise, detail issues and Video Black lacking shadow detail. **Candy** is the weakest here at 1.33 X 1 from an analog NTSC (this could not be PAL, right?) video source that is lucky it survived, so expect flaws throughout.

The Jazz Singer is 1.33 X 1 in both versions offered. One option is a black and white kinescope (filmed off of a picture tube) that has the usual image distortions and shows its age, but we also get an authentic full color version from a 2-inch videotape. The system was designed by RCA and apparently was called Hetradine before it was abandoned. The tape was well-preserved by Lewis and his family, then recently restored and a new transfer made to get the color edition we have here. As compared to the monochrome kinescope, it is fresher, livelier and actually has more detail, while the kinescope looks older, more distant and rougher. The comparison reminds us of how many thousands of hours of vital television are gone or were not captured as well as we could have hoped for. The remaining documentary DVDs are here in anamorphically enhanced 1.78 X 1 presentations that mix stills, old film footage, old video footage and newly recorded interviews in skillfully edited ways. Only Blu-ray versions could make this look better.

The DTS-HD MA (Master Audio) 5.1 lossless mix on the **Purple** Blu-ray is easily again the best performer and is just fine for this show with a consistent soundfield, even if it never overly impressed me. Maybe it is just that I have heard too much Purple. **The Jazz Singer** is in lossy Dolby Digital 2.0 Mono, but this had to be reconstructed from a few sources as the videotape had audio dropouts with permanent audio loss. Fortunately, the kinescope film print had audio and Lewis had half of the show's original audio on magnetic audio tape, so this is a reconstruction that works. **Candy** has lossy Dolby Digital 2.0 Stereo that sounds fairly good for its age, but could sound better. **Limelight** has lossy Dolby Digital 5.1 that is good for a documentary, but the soundfield changes as mono, simple stereo and various sources in various conditions turn up throughout. **Soul** has the same issue, but offers lossy Dolby Digital 5.1 EX to make the music sound top rate.

- Nicholas Sheffo

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