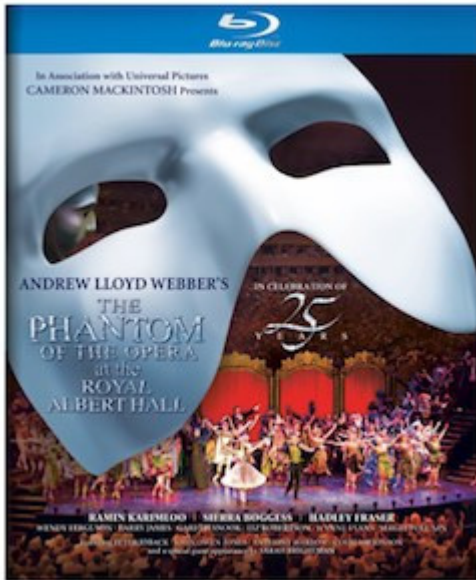
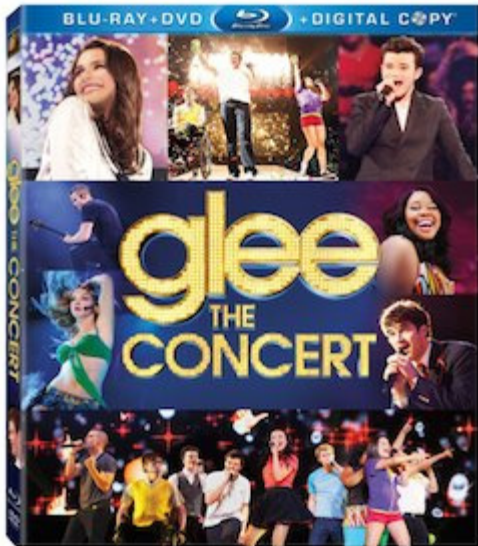


Music Spotlight: Phantom Of The Opera, Glee, Queen, X, Al Di Meola



(<http://www.dvdsnapshot.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Phantom25.jpg>) I don't generally like opera, but I do enjoy **Phantom of the Opera**, having seen it on Broadway and a few regional touring productions of it. **The Phantom of the Opera at Royal Albert Hall** is a huge 25th anniversary production of the show with a cast and orchestra of over 200 members. It was put together by Cameron Mackintosh, and if you're a fan of the show, it's pretty mindblowing. There are some cameos by past Phantom luminaries, but the cast as a whole is outstanding. I don't really know what I can say about Phantom; if you haven't seen it live, this is easily the next best thing.

And if you're going to watch it on disc, the Blu-ray is the way to go. It looks and sounds utterly amazing, with bold, vivid colors and a sharpness that belies its live origins. The soundtrack and music sound amazing; lush, full, and vibrant. This is a stellar effort all around.



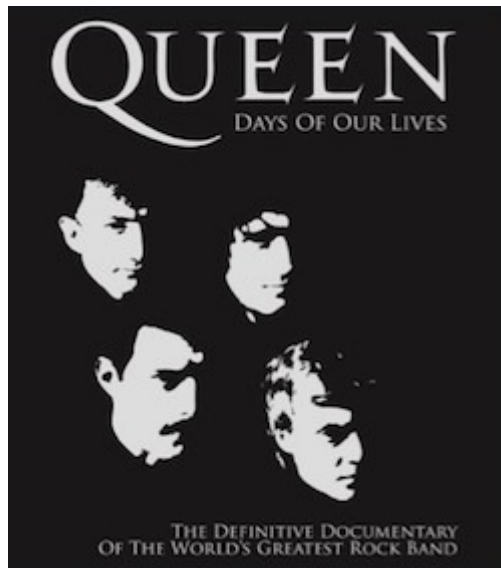
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[content/uploads/2012/02/GleeConcert.jpg](http://www.dvdsnapshot.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/GleeConcert.jpg)) **Glee: The Concert** does not capture the sheer, manic fun of the show itself, but it is a lot of fun to watch. At 84 minutes, this is the cast of Glee punching through one song after another. Jane Lynch is on hand to do introductions in character as Sue Sylvester, but this show is all about the music and the dancing. And the cast does it well; they sound surprisingly good live and the show is energetic and fun.

On Blu-ray, the production sparkles. Much like the **Phantom** Blu-ray, colors are at a premium, imagery is clean and clear, and the print is blemish-free. The soundtrack captures the crisp, bright highs and the thrumming lows of the pop, rock, and show tune music quite well, and fans will not be disappointed.

Extra features include:

- Exclusive Performances Not Seen In Theaters: “Dog Days Are Over” and “Friday”
- Thrilling Extended Performances of “Ain’t No Way” and “Happy Days Are Here Again/Get Happy”
- On Stage With The Cast Including Hilarious Unseen Sue Sylvester Introductions and Kurt’s Proposal
- Digital Copy Of Feature Film



(<http://www.dvdsnapshot.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/QueenDaysOfOurLives.jpg>) **Queen: Days of Our Lives** is an amazing documentary about an amazing band. But before you think, “Great, another music documentary?” be aware that the bonus features on this disc include a number of music pieces, so the disc is a bit of a hybrid of documentary and music collection. The film is basically split into two parts and tells the tale of Queen. The two parts can basically be labeled Pre-Freddy Mercury and Post-Freddy Mercury, but both halves are equally as interesting. It’s filled with new interviews with the surviving band members, and a ton of archival footage as well, so it’s a well-rounded program that is more than just a cobbled together cheap quickie of a film.

The film looks and sounds good on Blu-ray. It’s a documentary, so there’s not too much to boast about, but there are no complaints, either.

Extra features include:

- 7 New Music Videos
- Almost an hour of deleted sequences
- Bonus Interviews



(<http://www.dvdsnapshot.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/XMusic.jpg>) If you’re an X fan, don’t get too excited by the title **X: The**

Unheard Music. This isn't a collection of new, rare tracks or anything like that. Rather, the title of this documentary refers to the fact that although X were hugely influential punk pioneers, they never really managed much chart success. This film is a more traditional documentary, charting the band's rise (such as it was) and inevitable fall. It's certainly a well put together film, and it's interesting and entertaining enough that even a non-fan such as myself was caught up in watching it.

This is an older film ported to Blu-ray, so much like the **Queen** Blu-ray above, it doesn't boast too much in terms of A/V wattage, but everything looks and sounds fine, with no major technical issues.

Extra features include:

- John & Exene Dialogue
- Interview with Angel City
- Some Other Time (Live Outtake)
- Original Theatrical Trailer
- The Unheard Music Songbook



(<http://www.dvdsnapsnot.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/AIDiMeola.jpg>) Finally, **Al Di Meola: Morocco Fantasia – World Sinfonia Live** is the kind of disc that I can recommend to Al di Meola fans. Not being one of them, or even of his whole genre of music (if you can classify his sound), I don't have a lot of insights to share, except that I can say that all of the musicians are masters of their instruments. The line-up for the band includes Al Di Meola (guitar), Peo Alfonsi (2nd guitar), Fausto Beccalossie (accordion), Gumbo Ortiz (percussion), Victor Miranda (bass), Peter Kaszas (drums), and special guests from Morocco: Said Chraïbi (oud), Abdellah Meri (violin) and Tari Ben Ali (percussion).

The Blu-ray sounds amazing, but the visual quality is pretty average. It really looks more like a standard DVD than anything else. Still, when the music sounds this good, it's hard to complain.

Extra features include:

- 7 Bonus Musical Sequences
- Photo Gallery

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