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Thursday, May. 03, 2012
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Sound check: DVDs and music from yesterday's artists

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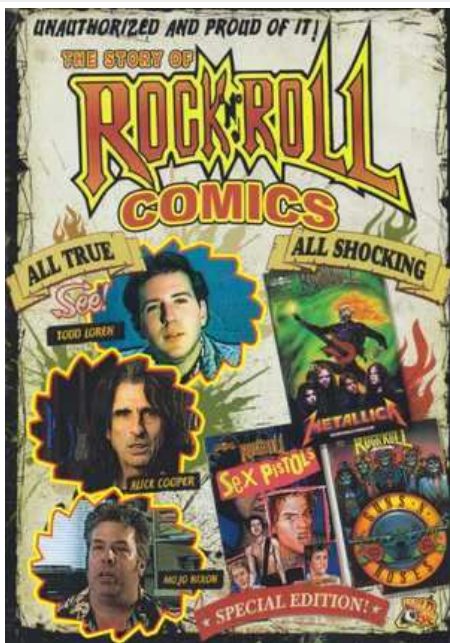
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Disc one highlights like "Cities on Flame with Rock and Roll" and "The Red and The Black" show that lyricists Sandy Pearlman, Richard Meltzer and others added a literate edge to the musically adept metal played by their classic lineup (Eric Bloom: lead vocals, stun guitar and keyboards; Donald "Buck Dharma" Roeser: lead guitar, keyboards and vocals; Joe Bouchard: bass, vocals and guitar; Albert Bouchard: drums and vocals; and Allen Lanier: keyboards and guitar).

Disc one's other highlights include "O.D.'d on Life Itself," "Career of Evil" and six blazing live songs, including the five-guitar finale, "ME 262."

Disc two starts with "Don't Fear the Reaper." Everything from then on would be judged by different standards, but BOC was up to the challenge with "I Love the Night," "This Ain't the Summer of Love," "Goin' Through the Motions" and two more live killers.



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Fans of Blue Oyster Cult, kids who wonder what the fuss was about and those curious about the phenomenon will want this collection.

'The Essential Donovan,' (Epic/Legacy, HHHHH)

This April 17 two-disc set closely follows Donovan's induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Some of the songs will be familiar to most listeners: "Hurdy Gurdy Man," "Lalena," "Sunshine Superman," "Jennifer Juniper," "Atlantis" and my favorite, "Mellow Yellow."

Those only scratch the surface, though they remain the ones I enjoy most, with their gimmicky Mickie Most production and collection of backing British rockers.

Most of these are featured on the box set released/reviewed in 2005 and titled "Try For the Sun: The Journey of Donovan."

Other highlights are the jam-band favorite "Season of the Witch," his first single "Catch the Wind," the Caribbean-flavored "There is a Mountain," his collaboration with the Jeff Beck Group, "Barabajagal (Love is Hot)," the child-like "Riki Tiki Tavi" and "Wear Your Love Like Heaven."

The nifty booklet with quotes from other artists and the timeless songs (some unreleased)

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add up to a great bargain for those who didn't snag the aforementioned box.

'The Story Of Rock N' Roll Comics,' (MVDvisual, HHHH)

This April 24 DVD presents a documentary telling the story of Todd Loren, the owner of Revolutionary Comics, who published the popular "unauthorized and proud of it" Rock 'n' Roll Comics.

These featured biographies of The Sex Pistols, KISS, Alice Cooper and more, which were loved by some (Cooper, Billy Gibbons, Lemmy) and hated by others (AxI Rose, NKOTB).

More than 300 issues of Rock 'n' Roll Comics were printed, featuring bands from pop to punk and beyond.

Unfortunately, Loren was found murdered in his San Diego condo in the summer of 1992, a case yet unsolved.

There are more than two hours of bonus material here, and I recommend this program highly.

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

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