

Black Flag

"Live" DVD

(Visionary)

★★★★★



This old VHS transfer captures the band in their Henry Rollins days, in front of a British crowd in 1984. It begins with a daring Rollins reading Henry Miller to the rowdy punk rock audience, certainly a harbinger of his future as a stand-up comic and writer/storyteller. Nonetheless, this soon devolves into a melee of abrasive and wild hardcore/punk, complete with a shirtless Rollins bellowing his lyrics like a feisty bulldog. The band, led by the innovative guitar of Greg Ginn, amply back up the charismatic Rollins, as they roar through classics like "Nervous Breakdown", "Slip It In", "Six Pack", "My War", and plenty more.

It's a fine document of an era long gone, and though watchers should not expect an HD-quality experience, this is a great and rare look at one of American punk's legends. And for Rollins fans, a place to see a thinner, long-haired Rollins in his more youthful, raw element.

— Todd Zachritz

Peter Hook And The Light

"1102/2011" CD

(Hacienda Records)

★★★★★



In the wake of New Order's fallout and subsequent break-up, co-founder Peter Hook has been busy revisiting his earlier roots as bassist for legendary post-punk innovators Joy Division.

This 10-track album features several Joy Division classics, re-interpreted by Hook and band, including female vocalist Rowetta, who transforms "Atmosphere" into a soaring angelic symphony with an almost operatic tone. "Pictures In My Mind" is an unfinished Joy Division demo, now "finished" by Hook, and this is a more raw punk-oriented piece that remains faithful to the Joy Division legend. Other cuts, like "New Dawn Fades" or "Insight", also include vocals by Rowetta. Appended to the album are instrumental versions of all the songs, as if to appease classic fans who may not appreciate the updated vocal stylings. Solid work, and though it may not open up a new audience to the classic music of Joy Division, "1102/2011" is a solid retrospective of the band's work.

— Todd Zachritz **4U**

Mark Lanegan Band

"Blues Funeral"

Album

(4AD)



After his brilliant work with UK electro-blues group the Soulsavers, Lanegan returns with a similar direction on his own, throwing down some dark-edged sounds (as the title reflects) in his own whiskey-soaked, inimitable way. Songs about drinking, hard-living, redemption, and cheating death are the order of the day. Standouts include "St. Louis Elegy" and "Riot In My House", which features one Joshua Homme.

Ignitor

"Year Of The Metal Dragon"

CD

(MVD Audio)



From Texas comes this metal band with their 4th studio album, and it's a throwback to the days of greats like Judas Priest or Iron Maiden. Sure, tracks like "Heavy Metal Holocaust" are silly and juvenile (especially lyrically), but they are also well-played and tight musically, with screaming leads and good production.

Sleigh Bells

"Reign Of Terror" Album

(Mom + Pop)



This Brooklyn duo's amped-up noise guitar/machine madness is like Atari Teenage Riot meets Lush, with brash drum machines and fuzzy guitar everywhere, and sweet girl vocals of Alexis Krauss on top. The pop of "Born To Lose" is a highlight, as is the lovely "Leader Of The Pack".

— Todd Zachritz **4U**

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