



premiere American male dancer, and while he was principal with the New York City Ballet he had a number of ballets created especially for him by the company's artistic director and ballet master George Balanchine. d'Amboise was privileged to work with most of the major figures in dance in the 20th century and also choreographed numerous ballets himself. He is not shy here about rising from the table to demonstrate techniques and re-create movements from his definitive role as Apollo in the 1950s. Archival photos and film footage from his career augment the chat. In 1976, d'Amboise, a major advocate for dance education in the United States and worldwide, founded the National Dance Institute, which has been teaching schoolchildren for more than 30 years. **VERDICT** Anyone interested in dance will thoroughly enjoy this interview; very highly recommended.—Tom Budlong, Atlanta

Billy Bang: Long Over Due. color. 77 min. Oscar Sanders, Malcolm Entertainment, www.malcolmentertainment.com. 2012. DVD \$15 + \$2 s/h. MUSIC

Billy Bang (1947–2011) played free jazz violin in an often skittering, idiosyncratic style. This hagiographic documentary is obviously a labor of love for Sanders, the film's producer, director, screenwriter, cinematographer, and editor. He poses to people who have played in Bang's bands a series of questions about Bang's music, such as "What was it like playing with Billy Bang?" These musicians reminisce, evaluate, and relate anecdotes, though the insights are often on the level of "always gave 100 percent" or "he could make some grilled cheese sandwiches, man." We hear only a few segments of their actual playing, which would have given the viewer a much better idea of Bang's contributions than talking heads praising him. **VERDICT** Large jazz collections will want to consider, but most libraries need not.—John Hiatt, formerly with Iowa City P.L.

★Color Me Obsessed: A Film About the Replacements. 2 discs. color. 123+ min. Gorman Bechard, What Were We Thinking Films, dist. by MVDVisual, 800-888-0486; www.mvdb2b.com. 2012. DVD UPC 760137553397. \$19.95. MUSIC

The Replacements were not a typical rock band, so it is fitting that this film by writer/director Bechard (*Friends [with Benefits]*) is not a typical rock documentary. Bechard deliberately avoids using any images or audio or video footage of these cult favorites, instead relying entirely on fans, friends, colleagues, and journalists to tell the story of the critically acclaimed, constantly quarrelling Minneapolis punks who found modest fame in late 1980s/early 1990s college rock

circles before imploding while on the verge of mainstream success. The formidable lineup of interviewees who trace the band's history and analyze their music include celebrity fans such as actors Tom Arnold and George Wendt, music writers like Robert Christgau, and current musicians inspired by the Replacements, including members of the Goo Goo Dolls. Still, the most interesting, insightful, and heartfelt comments come from a long list of noncelebrity devotees. Generous extras in this two-disc set include two commentary tracks, additional interview footage, and a behind-the-scenes featurette. **VERDICT** This entertaining and unique portrait of the Replacements will convince newcomers to give them a listen and provide fans with viewpoints and recollections from multiple perspectives. Highly recommended.—Douglas King, Univ. of South Carolina Lib., Columbia

★Jason Becker: Not Dead Yet. color. 89+ min. Jesse Vile, Opus Pocus Films, dist. by Kino Lorber, www.kinolorber.com. 2012. DVD UPC 738329106324. \$26.95; public performance \$149. MUSIC/BIOG

First-time feature filmmaker Vile produced and directed this inspirational profile of 1980s heavy metal guitar prodigy Jason Becker (b. 1969), who after being diagnosed with ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease, at age 19 has not only miraculously survived for more than 20 years but continues to write and record. As evidenced by ample footage of the then-teenaged guitarist performing on stage and practicing his craft, as well as through interviews with fellow musicians, Becker was on his way to stardom when he was struck down with the progressively debilitating disease. Vile doesn't wallow in the sadness and tragedy of Becker's story, instead emphasizing Becker's humble perseverance and dogged pursuit of his passion for music. This powerfully well-crafted film focuses not just on Becker but also on his caregivers, including an ex-girlfriend-turned-personal chef and his father, who has invented an ingenious eye-communication system for his son. Bonus extras include performance footage of a young, healthy Becker in action, additional interviews, and a medical expert's clear explanation of ALS. **VERDICT** Recommended for fans of *Just Around the Corner* (LJ 3/1/13) and other true stories of human endurance with a rock and roll twist and for anyone interested in the effects of ALS.—Douglas King, Univ. of South Carolina Lib., Columbia

The Walt Disney Concert Hall Organ. 1 disc + 1 CD. color. 47+ min. Raoul Peter Mongilardi, Sable Arms Prods. in assoc. with OM-RPM Prods., dist. by Kultur. 2012. DVD

ISBN 9780769750019. \$29.99. MUSIC

A moneymaker for the Walt Disney Concert Hall Organ Fund, this tour of the spectacular, sculpture-like concert organ in architect Frank Gehry's Los Angeles performance space explains its history (it was completed in 2004); demonstrates how metal pipes are poured, rounded, and tuned; and spends time lauding a peculiar feature of this unique instrument: its visible set of wooden pipes designed, with Gehry's assistance and approval, to echo the swooping lines of the concert hall itself. Not only are wooden organ pipes usually hidden from view, but curved ones had never before been made. The slow, clear narration, with elementary organ terms well defined, offsets the disappointingly fuzzy telephoned statement from Gehry himself. Ten organists talk about choosing compositions and perform more than a dozen excerpts from the Baroque age to the 20th century (full pieces are on the accompanying 77-minute CD). **VERDICT** A visually useful "organ crawl" of a powerful music machine designed for the 21st century, coupled with a sound disc that broadly demonstrates its sonic versatility. Fans of the King of Instruments will be pleased.—Bonnie Jo Dopp, Libn. Emerita, Univ. of Maryland, College Park

The Ballad of Genesis and Lady Jaye. color & b/w. 70+ min Marie Losier, Adopt Films, dist. by New Yorker Films, www.newyorkerfilms.com. 2012. DVD ISBN 9781567305075. \$29.95. PERFORMING ARTS

Artists Genesis Breyer P-Orridge (b. 1950) and Lady Jaye Breyer P-Orridge (1969–2007) had a singular relationship: they decided to become a new, separate being comprised of the two of them, even employing surgical means to do so. Presented with such unique material, a thoughtful filmmaker might have explored whether that "pandrogynous" project truly ended with Lady Jaye's 2007 death, with Genesis's seminal musical work with Psychic TV and Throbbing Gristle shaped into an effective score. Alas, director Losier's *Ballad* is merely a rambling, impressionistic peek at the subjects' life and work as a couple. The production is scarcely competent and lacks a firm guiding hand; the impression it leaves is that its footage—allegedly shot over seven years—might as well have been chosen at random. Extras include short films, photos, outtakes, and interviews. **VERDICT** The Breyer P-Orridge project deserves better than this earnest, disjointed valentine. Provocative themes, language, and imagery make it suitable for teens and up. Though appropriate for AV collections featuring P-Orridge's work or the extremes of performance art, it is not recommended for most libraries.—J. Osicki, Saint John Free P.L., NB

