

This CD was released Tuesday in conjunction with what would've been Jimi's 70th birthday year (his birthday is Nov. 27). This recording serves as a musical successor/companion piece to 2010's "Valleys Of Neptune," which featured his final recordings with both versions of the Jimi Hendrix Experience. A wide variety of collaborators work with Hendrix on these collected sessions. Versions of some songs have been presented on posthumous releases, but fans of Jimi will dig this package featuring different facets of his remarkable music.

My favorites include a fiery "Let Me Move You" featuring saxophonist Lonnie Youngblood; the instrumental "Easy Blues," which was excerpted on the out-of-print "Nine To The Universe"; "Inside Out," which features Jimi doing all bass/guitar parts including a Leslie-amplified solo; his horn-drenched song with The Ghetto Fighters called "Mojo Man" and the stripped-down funk of "Earth Blues."

'Mick Vs. Keith: The Strange Case Of Jagger & Richards,' (MVDvisual, HHHH)

This Feb. 19 two-DVD release from Chrome Dreams/MVD involves a bit of creative repackaging. "The Roaring 20s: Mick Jagger's Glory Years" was reviewed July 26, 2011, "Keith Richards Under Review" is a new one to me. Together in a box fronted by a vintage onstage shot and a school class photo on back, the two DVDs tell the story of one of the most successful but dysfunctional partnerships in rock 'n' roll.

The new Keith "Under Review" DVD doesn't reveal much that I haven't previously read or heard; but it's good to get it all in one place. Now that the Stones may be wrapping up their days as a major concert attraction, this package is a good way for fans and neophytes to bone up on them. And, the Keith one includes an extremely difficult quiz.

'Bates Motel,' Paul Roland (Sireena Records, HHH 1/2)

This March 12 CD comes from a guy who, according to press materials, has done recordings of "mock gothic grandeur," "Edwardian proto-steampunk" and "dark woods of folk-themed "Grimm."

Those descriptions don't match up with this album, though it also doesn't sound much like icons name checked in the press kit -- The Ramones, The Cramps, Iggy Pop and Johnny Cash. The subject matter of the opener, "I Was a Teenage Zombie," is Cramps-like, though, and it sounds pretty cool. This recording features Paul singing lead and playing acoustic guitar, organ and other instruments. He's backed by lead guitarist Sonny Midnight, bassist Joshua Roland (his son), organist Tony Jacks and drummer James Count.

Other highlights in this horror-themed garage include the Spaghetti-Western-flavored title song, the driving "How I Escaped From Devil's Island" and the weirdly celebratory "Crazy."

'Color Me Obsessed: A Film About The Replacements,' (MVDvisual, HHHH)

This two-DVD package was released Nov. 20, 2012. The subject is The Replacements, a Minnesota band that many people are convinced was the "last best rock band,." Their mercurial lead guitarist, Bob Stinson, died in 1995; and that's the main reason members of the band don't appear in the movie except in still pictures taken during their 1980-1992 career. Paul Westerberg, their lead singer/rhythm guitarist/songwriter has released a number of albums since the band's demise, some of which are brilliant, and he prefers to keep forging forward.

Director Gorman Bechard and producer Hansi Oppenheimer instead focus on the band's fans and the difference The Replacements made in their lives. The Goo Goo Dolls, The Decemberists, Archers Of Loaf along with Tommy Erdelyi (Ramone) who produced one of their albums offer their opinions, as do the writers Legs McNeil, Robert Christgau, Jim DeRogatis and others. Actors Tom Arnold, George Wendt and many dedicated fans are also interviewed to great effect as the film follows the story of The Replacements from their early demo tape through their final onstage breakup. This is an enjoyable film.

Upcoming Columns

The next few weeks will feature my reviews of a Queen concert DVD filmed in Wembley Stadium, a new CD from former child singing prodigy Charlotte Church, a CD from hot East Coast band Alpha Rev, the Legacy Edition of "Elvis Aloha Via Satellite" and hopefully some bluegrass CDs.

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