



Fulvue Drive-in

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- > The Courier (2011/Well Go USA Blu-ray)
- > Robert Conrad Double Feature (Live A Little, Steal A Lot (aka Murph The Surf (1975) + Sudd
- > Happy Endings – The Complete Second Season (2011 – 2012/Sony DVD Set)
- > Paul Rodriguez: Just For The Record (2012/Image DVD)/Peace, Love & Misunderstanding (2011/IFC/MPI DVD)/Portlandia: Season Two (2012/VSC Blu-ray Set)/That's My Boy (2012/Sony Blu-ray)
- > The Barrens (2012/Anchor Bay Blu-ray w/DVD)
- > Basket Case 3: The Progeny (1991/Synapse Films DVD)
- > Beatles Stories (2012/Cinema Libre DVD)/Circle Jerks: My Career As A Jerk (2012/MVD DVD)/Freddie Mercury: The Great Pretender (2012/Eagle Blu-ray)/Gary Moore: Blues For Jimi (2012/Eagle Blu-ray)/The G
- > The World Series: History Of A Fall Classic (MLB/A&E DVD Set)
- > Rock Of Ages: Extended Edition (2012/Warner Blu-ray w/DVD)

IN STORES NOW

- > Phenomenon (1996/Touchstone Blu-ray)
- > Hunt (2010/aka The Hunt/MVD DVD)
- > Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles – The Complete 10th

- and Final Season (1996/Lionsgate DVD Set)
- > Batman: The Dark Knight Returns – Part 1 (2012/Warner Premiere/DC Comics Blu-ray)
- > Dexter – The Complete Sixth Season (2011/Showtime Blu-ray)
- > Fringe – The Complete Fourth Season (2011 – 2012/Warner Blu-ray)
- > The Scar Crow (2009/MVD DVD)
- > Holy Flying Circus (2011/Acorn Media Blu-ray)

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Category: Home > Reviews > Documentary > Music > Rock > Biography > Pop > Music Industry > Interviews > Album > Alternative > Punk > Biog > Beatles Stories (2012/Cinema Libre DVD)/Circle Jerks: My Career As A Jerk (2012/MVD DVD)/Freddie Mercury: The Great Pretender (2012/Eagle Blu-ray)/Gary Moore: Blues For Jimi (2012/Eagle Blu-ray)/The G

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Picture: Blu-rays: B-/DVDs: C
Sound: C/C/B-/B/C/C
Extras: B/C+/C/C+/D/C-
Music Programs: B/B-/B/B-/C+/C-

Now for a new set of music titles you should know about...



Seth Swirsky's **Beatles Stories** (2012) might at first seemed to be just another cheesy, cheap, cash-in exploiting the Fab Four like so many bad video releases have. It is even problematic that he keeps inserting shots of himself on camera holding HD cameras as he interviews his subjects, hurting the overall final cut of this interview documentary.

However, his love of the band, knowledge of the band and enthusiasm for finding out new information about them trumps all this because not only is he able to track down some great people to interview, he actually knows the questions to ask. The results are rare insight and stories from persons as diverse as Donovan, Henry Diltz, Henry Winkler, Smokie Robinson, Norman "Hurricane" Smith, May Pang, Sir George Martin, Peter Noone, Victor Spinetti, Denny Laine, Andrew Gold, Justin Hayward, Bob Eubanks and many others that makes this a key document all fans of the band and music in general will want to catch up with. If only Swirsky had not

overdone his appearances, this would have even been better.

Though he could not license actual Beatles music, the few sound-alike and remake pieces are off-set by a surprising number of other original hits that also help bring out the best of this work.

Extras include a feature length audio commentary track by the director, 36 minutes of additional interviews (some of which I wish would have stayed in the main program) and about 24 minutes of a longer interview with Beatles' engineer Norman "Hurricane" Smith.

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 > San Francisco 49ers: Team Of The '80s (Dynasty Collection/Gaiam Vivendi DVD)
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 > Ghosts Of The Abyss 3D (2003/Disney Blu-ray 3D w/Blu-ray 2D and DVD)/Titanic: 100 Years In 3D (2012/A&E/History Blu-ray 3D w/Blu-ray 2D)/Titanic At 100: Mystery Solved (2012/A&E/History DVD)

David Markey's **Circle Jerks: My Career As A Jerk** (2012) is a decent documentary on the famous Los Angeles Punk band who stayed independent as long as they could, then when they finally signed with a big record label, missed the boat, had tragedy and disaster in addition to it and even lost their street cred when teen pop songstress dated one of the band members and sang on one of their singles for the big label album.

In between are some crazy stories, a rare look at the history of bands who were being ignored by the majors as soon as the 1980s began for some 'mysterious reason' (they formed in 1979) but they were also sometimes their own enemies and most of the (interviewed here) are lucky they survived. Markey (**1991: The Year Punk Broke, The Slog Movie**) definitely knows what questions to ask, what the story is, what the history is and the interviews (which also include their friends, other musicians like Henry Rollins) and often rare video clips make this one of the year's music surprises. Especially because it is not only about Punk and its indie status but about the semi-fall of the major record labels more interested in safe music and back catalog than new music, even non-Punk fans should see this one.

Extras include Bonus Interviews and Deleted Scenes.

The biggest goal of the two-part **Freddie Mercury: The Great Pretender** (2012) documentary is to not let it be another chapter on just Queen, but we get some of that work here, yet Mercury had more solo work than many realize and this well-made biographical look at his life goes into a few places a Queen-only program could not. We again get interviews with friends, the other band members and those involved with making the music and videos for that band and especially Mercury solo.

It is a sad story at times of a very talented man getting AIDS, being alone on some level always and not knowing where he wanted to go except when it came to music, for which he was supremely creative. Nice to have it on Blu-ray, extended interviews and making of **Barcelona**, as well as an illustrated brief booklet with informative text are the extras.

Gary Moore: Blues For Jimi (2012) has the singer/guitarist getting together with former members of bands with Jimi Hendrix Dave Bronze and Darrin Mooney to play a 74-minutes jam session of classics like *Purple Haze*, *Hey Joe* and *Voodoo Child* and delivering a pretty good show, though I wish it were longer. Though you hear many Hendrix covers, these actually work and the trio (with two guests at certain points) does a really good job throughout. This is also more than compatible with the several **Montreux** titles by Moore Eagle has released over the years and a tad better than the **Phil Lynott** tribute show Eagle issued on Blu-ray, all reviewed elsewhere on this site.

It is for fans only for the most part, but those interested in Hendrix and his sound may find the 12-song set additionally interesting. An illustrated brief booklet with informative text is the only extra.

The Groundhogs: Live At The Astoria (1998) is the only concert footage of the Rock/Blues band where they perform 11 tracks pretty much in their prime. I had hardly heard of them and barely remember any of these songs, but it is archival and at 81 minutes, an honest, complete record of the band. It is rough in a few ways, but anyone who is a fan will love it and interested in seeing it will find it to be an interesting intro to the band. There are no extras.

Finally we have The Village Brothers' **Out The Gate** (2012) which starts out with great promise as a Reggae drama about young musicians coming from Jamaica and instead of settling for Kingston, go to the U.S. in hopes of big success. Early on, you expect this might be another **The Harder They Come** (for which it has more than a few similarities to) or **Rockers** (the two great Reggae films, both reviewed elsewhere on this site), then the script gives up, we go from some Hip Hop music to all Hip Hop and the

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