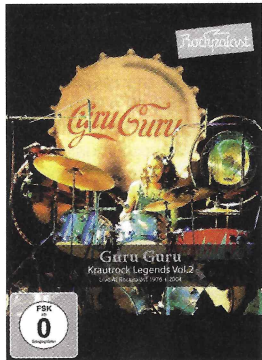


DVD★Reviews



Guru Guru Krautrock Legends Vol. 2: Live At Rockpalast 1976 + 2004

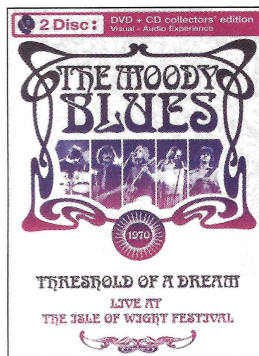
★★★★★
MIG 90577 DVD

Mental Guru

The honour of being the first German band to appear on their home nation's *Rockpalast* programme went to Guru Guru, who by 1976 had blossomed from the squat-begrimed revolution fomenters of yore into something more akin to peyote vaudeville. The snappy, endearingly garbled circus-funk-rock of Salto Mortadella sets the tone – "It's good to be here, we like to enjoy you with some good ideas" – before the set

builds into full-blown, inexplicable German slapstick with Ooga Booga Spezial. (The latter includes an interlude of four-part harmony yodelling with accordion accompaniment. It's like an episode of *Das Monkees* scripted by Christopher Isherwood.) The 1976-vintage band look amazing as well: bassist Jogi Karpenkiel, 100-feet tall with a *Hair Bear* afro and a 'tache, suggests a comedy E-FIT, while primate wildcard drummer and group lynchpin Mani Neumeier – long-haired yet comprehensively balding – looks as though he should be selling you dodgy gear from the boot of a Mk III Ford Cortina.

The DVD also features Guru Guru's *Rockpalast* concert from 2004: encouragingly, Neumeier's itinerant eccentricities evidently remained intact in the intervening 28 years. We'll forgive guitarist Luigi Archetti's horrible headless Steinberger guitar, however, because his confidently untoward playing – high plains drifter straddling a sputtering starship – more than redeems it. *Oregano Rathbone*



The Moody Blues Threshold Of A Dream: Live At The Isle Of Wight Festival 1970

★★★★★
Eagle Vision ERDVCD 076 (DVD+CD)
Live At Montreux 1991

★★★
Eagle Vision ERDVCD 075 (DVD+CD)

From Wight-hot to beige
Offhand, it's hard to think of any band that comes off badly in Murray Lerner's endlessly absorbing footage of the 1970 Isle Of Wight Festival. A preoccupied (but still incendiary) Hendrix aside, everyone seemed palpably infused with a sense of occasion. The Moody Blues were no exception. Looking young, eager and almost cool – an epithet even their most

OCD fans wouldn't normally apply – they pile in with minimal pomp. Gypsy and Never Comes The Day are persuasively beefy, Tuesday Afternoon sweet and swimmy: Justin Hayward's vocals tingle with nerves. Question – ah, unquestionably their best song – is excitably brakeless, and night has serenely fallen by the time they hit Nights In White Satin. Circumstantially, if you'd seen them there and then, you'd have swooned like a Tasered Brosette.

The difference between this and *Live At Montreux 1991* is the difference between the purposeful enthusiasm of ascendancy and the well-fed comfort of attainment. The band are confident and competent – but few sparks fly. Three successive songs from then-new album *Keys Of The Kingdom* are as stubbornly unmemorable as council minutes rendered in binary code, but at least the big guns (Nights, Question, Legend Of A Mind) are wheeled out with a modicum of panache. *Oregano Rathbone*

reunited Stooges – plus draftee bassist Mike Watt – sound just like The Stooges: crude, uppity, embattled, redemptive. These songs are their war stories, proudly baring wounds. Iggy's vocal range may be understandably foreshortened, but his leathery athleticism astounds. James Williamson's muscular chording, meanwhile, is like being pelted by slates: his lead lines fractious and fractured.

A lengthy set drawn from the first album, *Fun House* and *Raw Power* finds the band boldly augmented by strings and brass in the evening's later stages – note the atonal, Holstian overtures to TV Eye and Dirt. All this and two stage invasions: Ron would have been stoked. *Oregano Rathbone*

Get Up! Stand Up!

★★★

Eagle Vision EREDV 981

Big-name charity bashes compiled

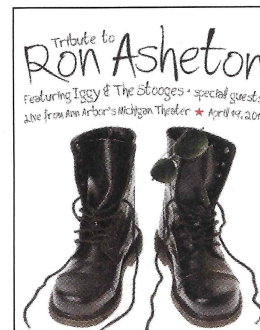
Between 1986 and 1998, Amnesty International promoted a string of worldwide star-studded benefit shows under the banner Human Rights Now, inspired by the success of the earlier London-staged Secret Policeman's Ball comedy shindigs. A far-reaching global series of events featuring music biz A-listers was an obvious move, even if naysayers sneered at the usual-suspect names involved.

This DVD cherry-picks highlights from four shows, three of which feature Peter Gabriel and two of which call on the services of Sting; predictable, perhaps, but bums on seats are what really matter when you're trying to heighten awareness. The first show, from 1986, also features Lou Reed, U2 and Bob Geldof, and was dismissed at the time as Live Aid-lite, but more pointedly political contributions from Fela Kuti, Ruben Blades and Third World boosted the gig's credentials.

The most powerful performances here come courtesy of Bruce Springsteen in Buenos Aires ('88) and Paris ('98), the latter show bolstered by Radiohead and an appearance by Jimmy Page and Robert Plant. Songs played rarely directly address Amnesty's work, but that was hardly the point. Like the more celebrated comedy gigs, they wooed audiences with the



Shades of blue:
Bob Geldof



Iggy & The Stooges + Special Guests

Tribute To Ron Asheton

★★★★★

MVD Visual MVD 5711 D

Real cool time

With dreadful irony, guitarist Ron Asheton was the Stooge least likely to check out early. However dismaying his premature demise may have been, it's a comfort to know that the Stooges reformation enabled him to tour the world in later life and see at first hand just how much his music meant to people. "Justice was finally served," notes MC Henry Rollins in his wonderfully pertinent, galvanic introduction to this tribute concert, filmed at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor in 2011.

Quite apart from the small miracle of their very