

Folk concert

White Bird is not part of the set performed on **Incredible String Band Live at the Lowry**, an MVDvisual release (UPC#022891459194, \$20), so be warned. Instead they sing numbers such as *Ducks on a Pond* or *Cousin Caterpillar*, which would not be out of place at a Raffi concert. The group's focus on folk music carries over to the antiqueness of some of their instruments and the roughly hewn harmonies they create singing and playing together. That the DVD has a 5.1-channel Dolby Digital track only serves to emphasize the deliberate lack of slick processing in the show's recording, which can make you cringe unless you keep the program at a modest volume. Fans will certainly appreciate the 98-minute show, which was shot in 2003, because of the clarity and immediacy that is conveyed by the crisp full screen images and loose staging, but casual viewers will be less enamored with the show and more apt to sample it in segments instead of attempting to take it all in at once. There is no captioning. Along with a text profile of the group, there is a fairly nice 23-minute interview with band members Mike Heron and Clive Palmer.

The Devil gets his due from Something Weird

The Devil is a primary character in both of the softcore burlesque programs paired on the Chiller Theatre Something Weird Video release, **The Joys of Jezebel/My Tale Is Hot** (UPC#014381360028, \$20). In the 1970 *Jezebel*, which is performed rather satisfyingly in Biblical-era costumes, the title character leaves Hell to trade places with a virginal princess so she can take revenge—and physical pleasure—upon the men who did her wrong in her mortal life. She also plays a fast one on the Devil by hiding the virgin, so the Devil has to search through Hell—encountering all sorts of odd goings on—to find her and get what he wants. The film's sex is harmless, and the 75-minute program has a nice psychedelic atmosphere that should please any viewer who is open to the genre to begin with.

The 1964 *My Tale Is Hot* is a little dumber and more specifically vaudevillian, although its basic premise is admirable—the Devil comes to Earth to tempt what turns out to be a good-hearted man (although his squat appearance had suggested otherwise), and is foiled with each trick he tries, but not before a bevy of mid-Sixties beauties is paraded topless before the camera. Running 58 minutes, the film is over before it becomes too tiresome, and while it is not as directly stimulating as *Jezebel*, its cheap sets and cue card acting have their own charms.

The full screen color source material on *Jezebel* is in adequate condition, with bright colors and reasonable coherency. Colors look fresh at times on the full screen *My Tale Is Hot*, but there is a substantial amount of wear to the source material, and many punchlines are lost to splices. On both, the monophonic sound is scratchy and there is no captioning.

Additionally, a 54-minute African-American Harlemwood Studios production from 1944 entitled *Go Down, Death!* has been included. It is about a jazz club owner (there are some terrific music and dance numbers) who attempts to corrupt a local preacher after the preacher's sermons depress his business, and concludes with a wonderfully phantasmagorical sequence in which the jazz owner gets his own taste of Hell (including a rather Hebrew-looking Devil). The full black-and-white source material is in fairly rough shape, as is the monophonic sound, but the film's inclusion in the collection is still satisfying.

Also featured are six Devil-related trailers, a standard 8-minute montage of exploitation film promotional art set to exploitation film music, a 3-minute black-and-white strip clip showing Candy Barr admiring herself in and out of a nightgown in front of a mirror, and a great 8-minute color cartoon without title cards (it is called *Satan in Church* on the DVD's menu) that depicts a conflict between church hierarchy and the Devil's influences in an abstract, European-looking two-dimensional style.

DVD News

A FORD IN YOUR FUTURE: 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment will be releasing a massive multi-platter set entitled **Ford at Fox**, filling in a major gap in cinematic history on DVD by including eighteen previously unreleased John Ford films and gathering six other Ford films that have been previously available on separate DVDs. The set will be priced at \$300, and components of it will also be available individually. Included in the presentation will be a bevy of Ford's silent films, including two versions of **The Iron Horse**, along with *Just Pals*, *3 Bad Men*, *Four Sons and Hangman's House*. Ford's Will Rogers movies will be featured, *Steamboat Round the Bend*, *Judge Priest* and *Doctor Bull*, along with **What Price Glory**, **When Willie Comes Marching Home**, **Seas Beneath**, **Up the River**, **Pilgrimage**, **The World Moves On**, **The Prisoner of Shark Island**, **Wee Willie Winkie**, **Four Men and a Prayer**, **Tobacco Road** and **Born Restless**. Also featured are the previously available **Drums along the Mohawk**, **Young Mr. Lincoln**, **The Grapes of Wrath**, **How Green Was My Valley** and **My Darling Clementine**. Many of the films are accompanied by commentary tracks and other special features. A documentary about Ford is included in the set as well. As for other Fox/MGM releases, **Erik the Viking** will be recut to 75 minutes and accompanied by a Terry Jones commentary track. **Rescue Dawn** will have a commentary by Werner Herzog, deleted scenes and a production featurette. **The Simpsons Movie** will have two commentaries, deleted scenes and a number of other humorous features.

TRANSFORMERS DETAILS: DreamWorks Home Entertainment's **Transformers** will have a Michael Bay commentary and extensive production featurettes.

THIRTEEN SUPPLEMENTS: Warner Home Video's **Ocean's Thirteen** will have deleted scenes and a number of production featurettes. **Payday** will have a director commentary track. **Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix** will have 17 minutes of deleted scenes and several featurettes.

HAWK EXTRAS: Sony Home Entertainment's **Hudson Hawk Collector's Edition** will have a commentary, featurettes and deleted scenes. **Flywheel** will have a commentary, deleted scenes, production featurettes and more. **I Know Who Killed Me** will have an alternate opening and ending.

CLOSED OUT OF TOWN: The following titles have been removed from our *Coming Attractions* listing—*Hatchet*, *Storybook The Enchanted Attic*, *Tactics V.5*, **Bride of Re-Animator** (Anchor Bay), and *Strawberry Shortcake Betty Blossom Festival*.

FORMAT COMPETITION: The following titles have been released on Blu-Ray—Remember the Titans (Buena Vista); Royal Space Force The Wings of Honneamise (Geneon); Nature's Journey (Koch); The Condemned, Delta Farce, House of 1000 Corpses (Lionsgate); Black Book, Dave Matthews & Tim Reynolds Live at Radio City, A Few Good Men, Memoirs of a Geisha, The Replacement Killers Extended Cut, Tekkonkinkreet, Underworld (Sony); Alexander Revisited, The Best of Blu-Ray V.1, The Best of Blu-Ray V.2, The Best of Blu-Ray V.3, Deliverance, Gods and Generals, Gothika, Jailhouse Rock, Nip/Tuck The Complete Fourth Season, Smallville The Complete Sixth Season, Troy Director's Cut, Viva Las Vegas, We Are Marshall, The Wild Bunch, Wyatt Earp (Warner). The following titles have been released on HD-DVD—Freedom V.2, Royal Space Force The Wings of Honneamise (Geneon); Nature's Journey (Koch); Next, (Paramount); Elizabeth, Evening, For Love of the Game, The Getaway, Knocked Up, The Last Starfighter, Patch Adams (Universal); Alexander Revisited The Final Cut, The Best of HD DVD V.1, The Best of HD DVD V.2, The Best of HD DVD V.3, Deliverance, Gods and Generals, Gothika, Jailhouse Rock, Nip/Tuck The Complete Fourth Season, Smallville The Complete Sixth Season, Troy Director's Cut, Viva Las Vegas, We Are Marshall, The Wild Bunch, Wyatt Earp (Warner).

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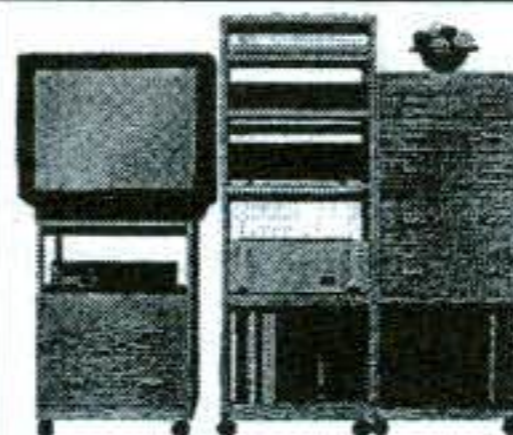
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