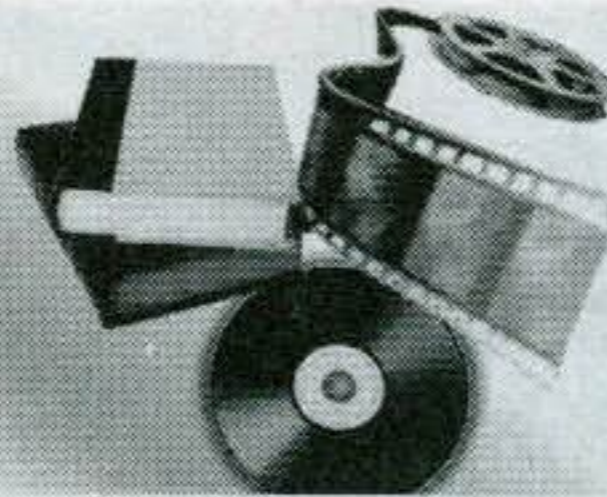


Reviews



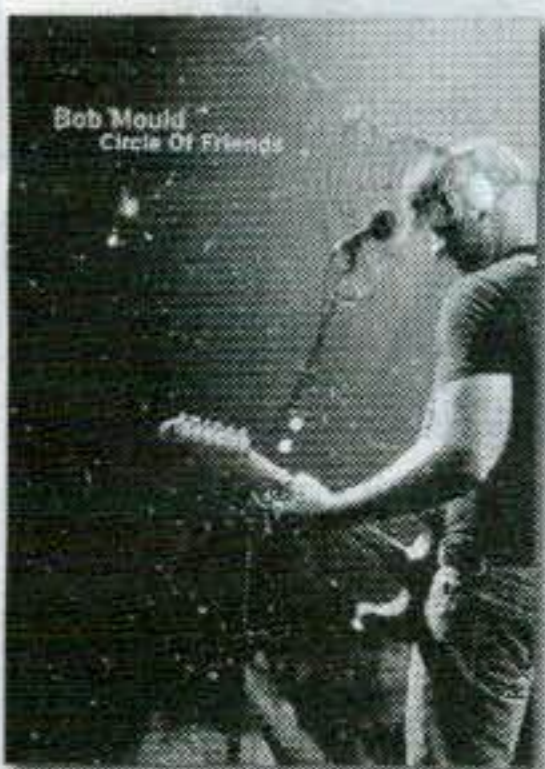
DJ Rekha Presents Basement Bhangra (Twisted/Koch) - CD



DJ Rekha (Malhotra) hosts the famous Basement Bhangra dance party held once a month at New York City's S.O.B.'s nightclub. It's a wildly popular event that's been rocking the club for a decade. On *DJ Rekha presents Basement Bhangra*, she brings some of the funk-

est and full-on bhangra beats and mixes from her dance party to the masses. Now you don't need to travel to NYC to hear her spin and mix recordings drenched in dhol beats. The 17-tracks recording is a whirling mass of sound mixing dhol-fueled traditional bhangra with hip-hop and electronica where Wyclef Jean, Bally Sagoo, Bikram Singh and others guest. The song "Snake Charmer" finds the theme music of snake charmers singed right into the rhythm and turns into a fiery dance number in which Panjabi MC goads all to get off the chairs and dance. Rekha was born in London and raised on Long Island. Now based in New York City, she is considered a catalyst for popularizing bhangra in American shores and is veteran of the club scene. Her credo is morphing bhangra into new territories while keeping an ear toward its traditional, folk beginnings.

Bob Mould Circle of Friends (MVD Visual) - DVD

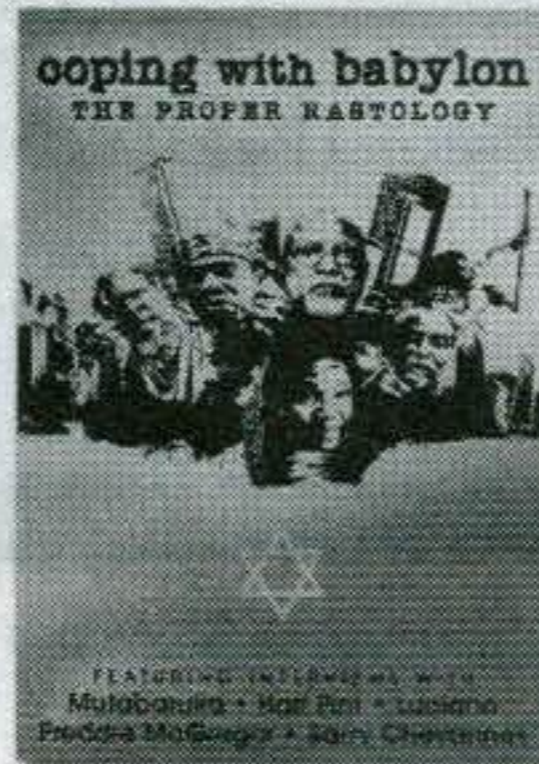


Singer/songwriter and guitarist Mould lunged out of the musical alleyways of Minneapolis in 1979 with the groundbreaking trio Husker Dü. He has since fronted the pop band Sugar and released several solo recordings. *Circle of Friends* is his first official concert film recorded live at the legendary 9:30 Club in Washington DC earlier this year with Brendan Canty (drums), Jason Narducy (bass,

vocals), and Richard Morel (keyboards, vocals) backing him up. Mould performs songs spanning his entire career here and the DVD is warmly filmed with multiple angles and clean sound. The featured songs range from old Husker Dü favorites including "Celebrated Summer" and "Makes No Sense at All" to tracks from Sugar's *Copper Blue* and his most recent solo recording *Body of Song*. The band is electric and they gel as

if they've been performing together for years. The DVD also features pre-show interviews with Mould and band members, which sheds a little more light on their camaraderie. Mould's buzzsaw guitars from the early years have been tempered with a more melodic flair of late, but the buzz is still there, mind you.

Coping with Babylon The Proper Rastology (MVD Visual) - DVD



This documentary, filmed by Oliver Hill, zooms in on the foundational philosophies of the Rastafarian religion. The disc features succinct and informative chats with Mutabaruka, Luciano, Half Pint, Morgan Heritage, Freddie McGregor, Elephant Man and Beenie Man. Rastafarianism is more than dreadlocks and reggae music, as Rastas adhere to the concept of Livity and acquisition of knowledge

through their religion - a mish mash of Christianity and African spiritualism. This documentary hones in on the School of Vision, a commune-like establishment in the hills of Jamaica where the residents study and practice Rastafarian religion. *Coping with Babylon* reveals the contemporary Rastafarian worldview as interpreted by some of the most prominent followers of His Imperial Majesty, Haile Selassie I. The artists and Rastas featured in *Coping with Babylon* mold contemporary versions of Rastafarians' anthems against Babylon while espousing a peaceful militancy. These contemporary revolutionaries aren't interested in armed resistance or uprising, but rather a spiritual revolution slathered in Rasta wisdom. In Rastafarian philosophy the term Babylon is equated with corrupt and materialistic cities that suppress the masses via economic mechanisms such as corruption, overbearing police and oppressive laws. Rastas strive for a return to nature and harmony along with the acquisition of spiritual knowledge. Contemporary Rastas reach out via dub poetry and reggae music, much the way Bob Marley and Peter Tosh did.

Jim Lauderdale The Bluegrass Diaries (Yep Roc Records) - CD



North Carolina-bred and Nashville-based musician Jim Lauderdale is a roots music catalyst and elder. He hasn't quite achieved wide stardom but his songs have been sung by many major names in country and bluegrass. His progressive country and backwoods bluegrass have a sense of place, as so warmly displayed in his newest record *The Bluegrass Diaries*.

All Reviews by Samir Shukla