



and compilations, this 29-song compendium also generously provides some unreleased bits from *Beirut Slump* sessions (with vocalist Bobby Berkowitz, who sounded a little bit like Marc Almond if he were really strung out).

Heralding the soon-to-be-vital NYC scene that spawned peers like Sonic Youth and Swans, Teenage Jesus and *Beirut Slump's* live shows were fiery and intense exercises in endurance and exorcism, eviscerating audiences with their shards of broken-glass guitars, rudimentary drums, and Lunch's atonal shrieks and agonized wails. You could probably consider this "punk," in a loose way, but Lunch's marriage of visceral aggression to a looser, more experimental and even almost jazz/improv vibe places them firmly into more avante-garde territory.

Cuts like the feral "Less Of Me" showcase Lunch's spunky back-alley attitude, and the haunting whirlwind of the aptly-titled "Tornado Warnings" show the force that TJ&TJ were capable of.

Lydia has since grown up, and has gone on to refine her primal anger and biting cynicism at our troubled culture through other mediums, but never has her attitude been so brutal and primal. Essential works here.

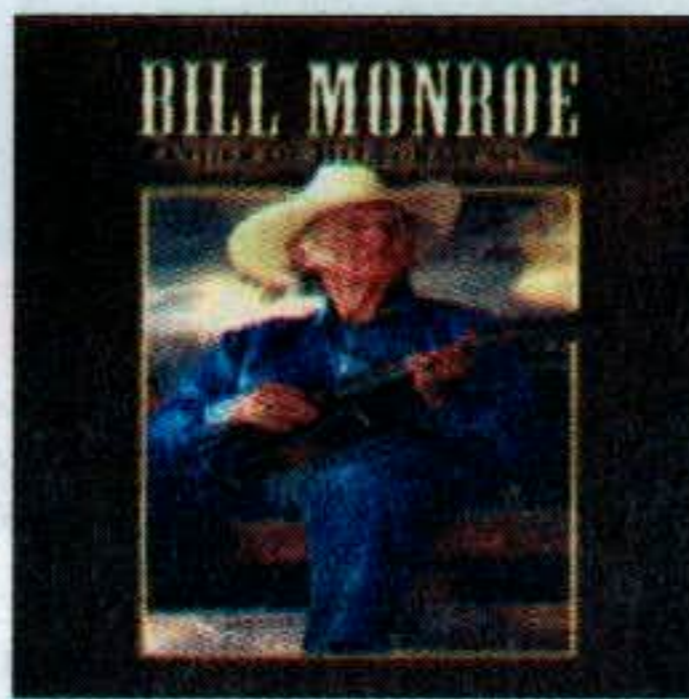
-Todd Zachritz • Rating: 4

Bill Monroe: Father of Bluegrass Music

[DVD]

(MVD Visual)

Anyone from this region that doesn't already know at least a thing or two about the Rosine, KY, man who "invented" bluegrass music has led a sheltered life and needs to find a copy of this re-released documentary, posthaste.



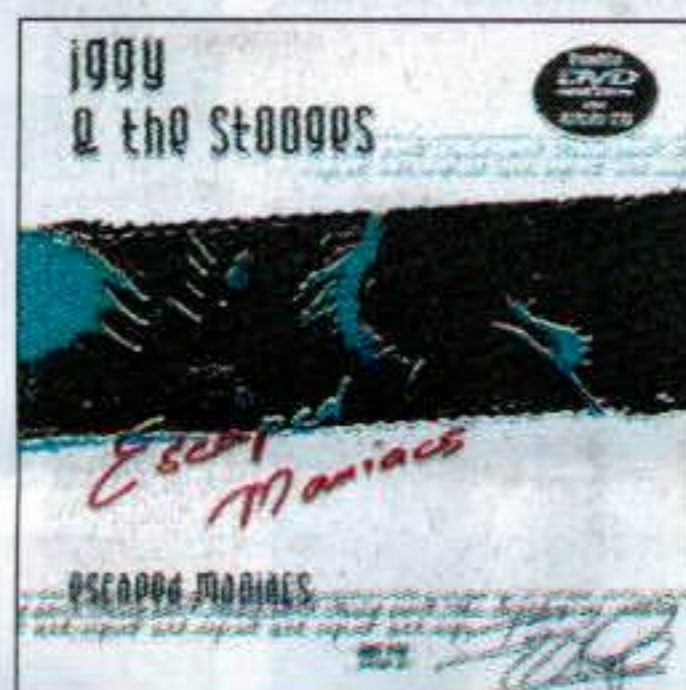
Featured are many interviews and intimate porch jams with Monroe filmed before his death in 1996 and allows the viewer what feels like first-hand insight into who this man was they call the "Father of Bluegrass." From the Grand Ol' Opry stage to the road, Monroe's life is documented along with the influences that inspired him to create this uniquely regional style. Interview subjects and performances include Lester Flatt, Emmylou Harris, Paul McCartney, Dolly Parton, Ricky Skaggs, Marty Stuart, Jerry Garcia, and Roy Acuff, among others.

-Brad Linzy • Rating: 4

Iggy And The Stooges

Escaped Maniacs [2xDVD]

(Charly Films/MVD Visual)



Iggy Pop is a super-human. He is a rock god. If you have any doubts to that kind of lofty praise, a quick browse at the first disc of this set will confirm it. Recorded live in Belgium in 2005 during the Stooges historic reformation tour, this DVD set captures the ferocity and fear-

lessness of Iggy the entertainer. At 61-years young, the former Jim Osterberg is primal, relentlessly energetic, provocative, and a stage-driven wild animal who puts to shame rock stars half his age. The man oozes attitude and snarl. Here, joined by Stooges Ron and Scott Asheton and former Minutemen/fire hose bassist Mike Watt, he takes control of the stage and never gives it up. The show, naturally, highlights plenty of the Stooges classic pre-punk rock, and great songs like "I Wanna Be Your Dog" and "1969" are amped-up and still great after 30 years. He even ushers a bunch of fans onstage to dance (and even sing along with) a few songs - much to the chagrin of security! Hah!

The second disc is full of bonus materials, including a documentary *30 Years In 60 Minutes*, which is very unsatisfying and scattered.

Somewhere out there is a thorough and exhaustive history of Iggy Pop on video - but it's not here. Hell, a feature-length film would be barely touching the surface and stories that surround Iggy and his years in the "business."

Anyway, in-depth interviews with the surviving Stooges (and one of Pop's longtime girlfriends, even) are entertaining and informative, with Iggy himself, of course, being the highlight. The man is full of a wealth of knowledge and experience, and his animated and well-spoken demeanor makes for a fun and honest interview.

Overall? Great live DVD, superb interviews, lackluster documentary.

And at around five hours in total, *Escaped Maniacs* is easily a must-have for fans.

-Todd Zachritz • Rating: 4

All You Need is Love: The Story of Popular Music

[DVD]

(Isolde Films/MVD Films)



This expansive and sprawling Tony Palmer documentary of western music was originally broadcast on TV in 17 episodes from 1976 to 1980, and found widespread critical acclaim. Now, for the first time, this entire documentary is available as a 15-hour, 5-disc DVD set. It's all here, everything from early ragtime, vaudeville, and jazz, to folk-rock, blues, acid rock and country. Every icon you can imagine, every man behind every stoic bust in every music museum in the world makes his appearance somewhere in this documentary to claim his due. From Hank Williams to Jim Morrison; from Scott Joplin to Janis; Pete Seeger to Pete Best; this is a truly massive effort and a real education in the musical trends of the western world from 1900-1980. While the cinematography incorporates techniques we might find outdated today, i.e. the naked, painted women during some of the transitions, it maintains its reverent insight and scholarly approach, and the content of this documentary is important enough to overlook any such stylistic concerns. If I ever have children, I intend to supplement their music education on documentaries just like this one. Would make a fantastic gift for the consummate music fan.

-Brad Linzy • Rating: 4.5 ●



Rating Scale:

- 5 Wins Place in Shrine in Bedroom
- 4 A Cut Above

- 3 Didn't Make My Head Explode
- 2 Needs More Cowbell
- 1 My God, What is this Abomination?