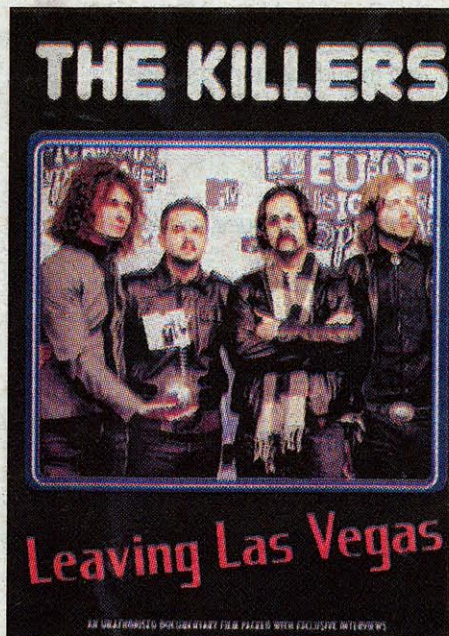


# Coming back to Las Vegas



"Leaving Las Vegas," The Killers (PRIDE/MVDvideo, ★★★)

This early June DVD is another "unauthorized biography" of a band. In this case, the Las Vegas band with the British sound who went to Britain to develop their sound, The Killers. When the original line-up began trying things out, Britain was a logical choice, because they were working on a Brit-rock stew with ingredients of Oasis, The Cure, The Smiths, The Beatles and more.

Their debut album, "Hot Fuss," spawned five hit single tracks and sold multiplatinum. Their follow-up, "Sam's Town," harkens back to their Vegas roots but shows lots of promise for a band that's clearly in the game for the long haul. Buy your copy of this release, and the ones reviewed below, at local music/video outlets or shop online at [www.mvdvideo.com](http://www.mvdvideo.com).

"Moogfest 2006 Live," Various Artists (MVDvisual, ★★★)

The late Robert (Bob) Moog invented the instrument without which bands like The Killers, not to mention many of their '80s brethren like Flock of Seagulls, would have sounded entirely different. Bands of my youth, like Emerson, Lake & Palmer, YES and even The Who benefited from Moog's Synthesizer, which was originally a humongous, complex

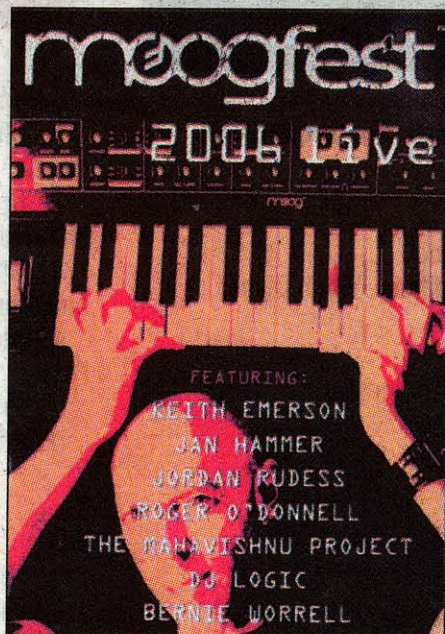


rock to fusion to funk, as well as compositions using newer synths as voices, are all explored. Highlights for me included Keith Emerson and his band doing "Lucky Man" and "Tarkus," and Rudess doing "Insectsamongus."

If you like keyboard jams, or keyboard players jamming with other instrumentalists, this will be a good one to grab!

"Rockford," Cheap Trick (Cheap Trick Unlimited/Big 3 Records, ★★★★★)

This album, released June 6, 2006, as the first joint offering of CTU and Big 3 Records, has many of the elements that made classic songs like "Surrender," "I Want You to Want Me," "Voices" and "Dream Police"—favorites of so many classic rockers over the years.



array of cords and switches. Fortunately for most players, the Mini-Moog and other simpler instruments followed

Ricky Flake is a former punk rocker, working musician (he sings with South Mississippi's Tribute to the Ramones, COM-MANDOS; and, drums with the Deacons) and music fan who lives in Biloxi. Reach him at [lobotomy3857@wmconnect.com](mailto:lobotomy3857@wmconnect.com).



shortly thereafter; and, even punk bands were touched occasionally by synthesizers.

Many leading keyboardists of today and yesterday participated in last year's Moogfest, which is held in New York annually. Keith Emerson, Jan Hammer, Jordan Rudess, Bernie Worrell, Roger O'Donnell and several others are along for the trip. Thus, genres from progressive

And I won't even bore readers with my knowledge of Trick's tragic alliance with bankruptcy-bound Red Ant Records in the late 90s (when they played a Biloxi show at the late, lamented ZOO nightclub). I will just state that this new album has lots of great vocals by Robin Zander, catchy guitar and bass hooks from Rick Nielsen and Tom Petersson, and tasty, understated drumming from Bun E. Carlos.

One listen to the Beatle-tender "O Claire," the rousing opener, "Welcome to the World" or the anthemic "Give It Away" will make believers out of new fans. Get Rockford locally or shop online at these Web sites:

[www.big3records.com](http://www.big3records.com) or [www.cheaptrick.com](http://www.cheaptrick.com).