

**X**

**"The Unheard Music" DVD**

Angel City Media/MVD Visual

★★★★★



Originally released 25 years ago, this well-deserved reissue is a classic documentary of the legendary L.A. punk band X, recorded during their prime, and featuring the participation of all members of the band, most notably both John Doe and Exene Cervenka.

Interspersing live footage with interviews, behind-the-scenes images, and stock footage to illustrate the times, "The Unheard Music" examines a band at it's peak, and at odds with the music industry. Major record company executives are, entertainingly, also interviewed expressing their confusion at X and their supposed "lack of commercial appeal", while forgotten glam rock bands are mentioned as "the next big thing". Just hilarious! But best of all are the candid and honest conversations with Doe, Cervenka, Billy Zoom, and D.J. Bonebrake. There's plenty of prime live footage, as well, illustrating how very unusual and innovative X really were in melding their Americana/country-tinged rock with rockabilly and punk.

This movie often gets cited by those "in the know" as one of the great rock documentaries out there, and after seeing it, I'm not doubting the validity of that claim. Bravo!

— **Todd Zachritz**

**Dead Milkmen**

**"The King In Yellow" CD**

Dead Milkmen

★★★★★



It's been a long 16 years since the last Dead Milkmen album, and this comeback proves a worthy addition to this Philadelphia folk/punk band's considerable back catalog. Having been college radio staples back in the late 80s, these guys held an important part of my adolescence. Having grown up with stuff like "Big Lizard In My Backyard", "Eat Your Paisley", and of course, "Punk Rock Girl", the Dead Milkmen's slackerly every-man delivery and fun-loving, cynical attitude immediately hooked me. They had some commercial success before splitting up in 1995, and with the unexpected death of member Dave Blood, it's refreshing to hear these guys regrouping for more upbeat but deadpan songs like "She's Affected" (where a hipster girl "dresses like Johnny Marr"), or "Meaningless Upbeat Happy Song", which needs no explanation. Any old fan will not be disappointed, as "The King In Yellow" picks up right where the band left off. Cool.

— **Todd Zachritz**



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