



05.01.2006



Repartee All the Time

Slip into some comfy sweatpants, open a pint of ice cream (or bourbon, if ageappropriate), and tearfully indulge in the very last episode of the WB's *Gilmore Girls* as we have known it. The sixth season finale, airing May 9 at 8 p.m., will be the last on the WB and the last to have the involvement of



show honcho Amy Sherman-Palladino. We'll worry about next season when it comes--and yes, it's coming, so don't hyperventilate--and take in the witty wordplay, the Stars Hollow shenanigans and clever cavalcade of guest stars, which includes noise rockers Sonic Youth as a band auditioning to play Logan's going-away party. Wait a minute, Logan's moving away? Sigh. We may never get out of these sweatpants.

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Norway? Way!

Singer-songwriter Ane Brun is probably not a household name--unless your house is in Norway, where she's won all kinds of awards for her lovely new album, *A Temporary Dive* (V2/DetErMine). Beautiful, haunting and, yes, even fun, Brun's music is folk with all the modern conveniences, having more in common with Beth Orton and Zero 7 than, say, Pete Seeger. That said, anyone who's fond of the lush mope of Nick Drake or the loose-limbed jaunt of Rufus Wainwright will find

tonight

The Simple Enter Paris Nicole's exc adventure;

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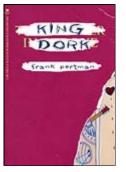
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much to love on gorgeous tracks such as "To Let Myself Go," "This Voice" and "My Lover Will Go." And while you're picking that up, get the bossa-Euro goodness of José González, whose *Veneer* (Mute) is a half-hour slice of heaven.



Now, in most cases, if we heard reports of an aging rocker hanging around near some young adults, we'd call the cops. But Frank Portman, better known as Dr. Frank of the Bay Area band the Mr. T Experience, has put his experience with life, love and rock 'n' roll into a good place, a hilarious young adult novel titled *King Dork* (Delacorte). Whether concocting band names like Ray Bradbury's Love-Camel or attempting to solve a decades-old mystery involving his dead father, the ironically self-crowned dork narrator is a terrific guide through the scary world of high school. Get it for a kid you know, but make sure to read it yourself.



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Step by Step

Movie geeks of a certain age remember parking in front of the TV on Sunday nights for *That's Entertainment!*, a documentary series that repackaged classic MGM musicals into shiny nuggets of singing and dancing perfection. Now you can dig on the six-disc *That's Entertainment! Motion Picture Soundtrack Anthology* (Turner/Rhino) as you practice trying to dance on the ceiling. Or you could just listen. Filled with the biggest stars--from Fred Astaire and Judy Garland to Lena Horne and Bing Crosby--this chunk of the best that American musicals have to offer feels like an ideal antidote for all the cares of the world.



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Rational Velvet

Just about every other musical act these days owes something to the Velvet Underground--whether they're copping the dark droning sound, copping the black leather style or copping a bit of "Heroin." But you don't watch the newly released DVD *The Velvet Underground: Under Review* to pay off a debt, get it for a glimpse at the daring and decadent band's 1960s heyday--from entrancing Warholian hipsters in NYC to its last gasps with turning out surprisingly perfect pop tunes like "Who Loves the Sun" and "Sweet Jane." The big names--Lou Reed, John Cale or Nico, the late model turned froggy-voiced singer--aren't interviewed, but the documentary is still worth watching to see pioneering female drummer Moe Tucker talk about how much fun all that darkness really was.

Cootenanny!

Sure, he's the Boss, but come on: Who really wants to listen to the Boss when you're not at work? Well, make



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