

SON VOLT ★★★

Son Volt Live: 6 String Belief

[TRANSMIT SOUND/LEGACY]

Son Volt's first DVD would've made a better live album



Son Volt shows aren't about spectacle. Jay Farrar doesn't move around very much, change the expression on his face, or address the audience beyond a few grunted "thanks." So this DVD, recorded at The Orange Peel in Asheville, N.C., isn't much to look at. Dressed in a politely tucked-in earthtone shirt, Farrar emphasizes earnestness over excitement, which makes most of these songs drag a little but gives him a steady authority on tunes like opener "Who" and "Joe Citizen Blues."

Fortunately, dynamic music compensates for the staid visuals. Farrar has assembled a tight, lively band, anchored by rhythm section Dave Bryson (Canyon) and Andrew

Duplantis (Meat Puppets), with new guitarist Chris Frame doling out blues riffs left and right. They kick up some dust on "Medicine Hat," the bluesy "Damn Shame" and "Clear Day Thunder," but save most of their bluster for the encore, closing the show with a rowdy version of Uncle Tupelo's "Chickamauga." *Stephen M. Deusner*

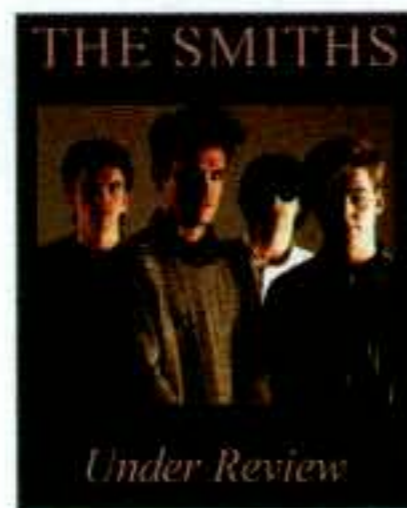
THE SMITHS ★★½

Under Review: An Independent Critical Analysis

[SEXY INTELLECTUAL]

Panic in your DVD player

This 90-minute documentary follows a linear biography of The Smiths' career, sprinkled with snippets of



As with any unauthorized feature, these conversations focus more on

the band's greatness than on any details of its recordings, songwriting or disputes; historical interviews with Morrissey and Marr are sadly underused. And rather than full versions of the live footage, the DVD's extras include interviews (with the same journalists and producers) about Morrissey's and Marr's solo careers and the so-called "Hardest Smiths Interactive Quiz In the World Ever." The content isn't bad, considering it's the only available Smiths documentary but, sadly, it never delves very deep. *Catherine P. Lewis*

VARIOUS ARTISTS ★★½

Austin City Limits 2005 Music Festival

[IMAGE ENTERTAINMENT]

You probably had to be there

Two random music junkies might have completely different experiences at a festival like Austin City Limits: So many bands play over the three days that it'd be impossible to catch them all (and counterproductive to even try). Re-creating the experience for home viewing is

therefore impossible, so the 2005 *ACL* double-DVD set doesn't bother trying. Instead, the first disc simply offers one song each by a couple dozen bands, with solid camerawork and great sound but nothing more to recommend it. It's hard to imagine one person loving every minute:

The festival's eclectic lineup means there's something for the indie kids (The Decemberists, The Black Keys), the Southern-jam-loving neo-hippies (Gov't Mule, The Allman Brothers Band), the Brit enthusiasts (Kaiser Chiefs, Bloc Party) and most everyone else, too. The second disc shakes things up with some mini-documentaries (including one on Austin's weirdest son, Roky Erickson, of 13th Floor Elevators fame) and behind-the-scenes footage, but the real festival-going experience never quite breaks through. *Josh Modell*

superphonic records

YOUR NEW FAVORITE LABEL



Duquette Johnston
"Etowah"
in stores August 22nd



The Saturdays
"Go Slow"
in stores August 22nd



Greg Summerlin
"The Young Meteors"
in stores now

check www.superphonicrecords.com for free downloads and news about future releases