

JANDEK ★★★

Glasgow Sunday [CORWOOD]

Legendarily reclusive enigma, unbelievably, makes concert DVD



A 2003 documentary about Jandek—that mysterious man from Houston, Texas, who self-released 40-plus albums of disharmony to near worldwide disinterest (beyond the devout and demented few) for over two decades—reached no definite conclusion save that we might never glimpse the man. To think that there would one day be a concert DVD of this spectral figure is akin to thinking that you would run into your own skeleton. And yet the former now exists, the resulting sensation not unlike the ghastly latter encounter. Documenting Jandek's first-ever appearance in public (unannounced, at a music festival in Scotland, of all places), the two unbudging cameras used to make this film present a scene as bare-bones as the man's music itself. Draped in black, Jandek's alien, detuned, erratic yet haunting music

rises like the dead, the resulting rattle and clamor not unlike a skeletal blues form—open-ended, dark and often about girls that done him wrong. *Andy Beta*

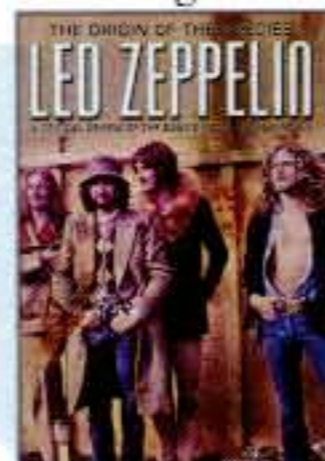
LED ZEPPELIN

The Origin of the Species: A Critical Review ★★★

[MUSIC VIDEO DISTRIBUTORS]

The making of the quintessential hard-rock band

Aptly titled, this modest documentary explores the influences that spurred the development of one of the most influential hard-rock bands of all time. Relying heavily on the expertise of first-rate journalists and biographers, this workmanlike 70-minute film does a solid job of considering not only the blues and rock 'n' roll legends who informed the Zep sound, but the forgotten artists with whom the members apprenticed. While archival footage abounds, there are no interviews with the



actual band members, and fans may be frustrated with the considerable truncation of the performances. But *Origin of the Species* does go a long way to address the band's reputation as sophisticated rip-off artists, and offers some little-known tales. The supplements include a lengthy (if somewhat rambling) first-person history of The Yardbirds by guitarist Chris Dreja, and a truly tough interactive trivia quiz. (Hint: watch the film first to improve your score!) *Tim Sheridan*

BURN TO SHINE: PORTLAND OR. 06.15.05 ★★★

A film by Brendan Canty and Christoph Green [TRIXIE]

Condemned house gets sumptuous last meal from host of Portland indie rockers

The third installment of Fugazi drummer Brendan Canty's *Burn to Shine* series takes us to the outskirts of Portland, Ore. The premise is simple: We meet a house slated for demolition; we watch Portland bands selected by The Decemberists' Chris Funk play one song each inside the house; then we see the house burn. Since the

film doesn't include enough context for it to scan as an elegy for a vanishing America, it makes more sense as a digest of Portland's music scene: The



Thermals, The Decemberists, The Shins, The Gossip, and Sleater-Kinney all turn in predictably great performances. In fact, the only real duds

come from The Planet The, whose spazzy frontman looks ridiculous without an audience to work with, and Quasi, who always makes me bite my knuckles in pain. But the highlight has to be the deft indie-pop of Girl's Rock Camp alums The Ready, whose singer/guitarist and keyboardist appear to be about 10 years old. *Brian Howe*



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