



Brothers in arms: Peter Hermann, Christian Clemenson and Cheyenne Jackson (from left)

United 93

★★★★

Cheyenne Jackson, Peter Hermann, David Alan Basche

Written and directed by Paul Greengrass

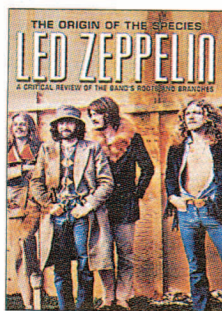
As the fifth anniversary of 9/11 approaches with new threats of terrorism from the air, audiences may shy away from a fresh kick in the gut courtesy of Hollywood (*World Trade Center*) and a wave of TV documentaries.

If you must limit yourself to one 9/11 film, make it the DVD of Paul Greengrass' *United 93*, a stunning re-enactment of what might have happened that morning on United Airlines Flight 93 - departing Newark for San Francisco - when thirty-three passengers and seven crew members rose up against the four knife-wielding hijackers who had killed the pilots and took control of the plane. Yes, it is painful to watch brave people risk their lives as they force the plane to miss its presumed target in D.C. and crash into Pennsylvania field. But it is also inspiring, a fact that the film, beautifully transferred to widescreen DVD, makes clear. For authenticity, Greengrass - the Brit director of *Bomb*, *Sunday* and *The Bourne Supremacy* - used little-known actors and recreation and military personnel to play themselves. Stark images of two planes crashing into the World Trade Center are set against scenes of a government unprepared for 9/11. Greengrass takes us aboard Flight 93. Using hand-held cameras and shooting in real time, he captures the staggering horror of that ninety-one-minute flight and how it unfolded from chaos. Some families worried that the film would focus on the quiet heroes - Todd Beamer (David Alan Basche), Mark Bingham (Cheyenne Jackson), Captain Burnett (Christian Clemenson) and Jeremy Glick (Peter Hermann) - who managed to go down fighting. But Greengrass' gaze is on the loved ones and reported the plan to go down fighting. We will never know whether the passengers actually breached the cockpit doors. Greengrass is their collective intent to do so in a way that redefines heroism.

EXTRAS The movie could not tell every passenger's story. But a sensitively presented special feature on the disc uses photos, home movies and interviews with family members of the actors to create an indelibly moving portrait of personal loss. **PETER**

Rolling Stone

Rolling Stone Magazine
September 7, 2006
issue



Led Zeppelin: The Origin of the Species

★★

The birth of rock's biggest dinosaur

Sexy Intellectual

If you can stomach loads of old British rock critics wibbling on about how Zep got their act together, this doc ably tells their tale. Its coolest curiosities are publicity photos of a short-haired Robert Plant with his early band Listen, and the story of how Jimmy Page took "Dazed and Confused" from his tenure in the Yardbirds to its place

P.R.



Harder They Come

★★

Complete edition of the classic

Picture Disc

Bob Dylan's 1972 film made Jimmy Carter a star for his portrayal of Jimmy Carter, a young man who comes from the sticks and would rather die than see his dream crushed by the giving realities of the record biz. Paired with the CD soundtrack, this useful edition is referred from the al negative) is have stuff.

PETER RELIC



Arrested Development: Season Three

★★★★½

Awkward, unclean family fun

20th Century Fox

Absurdly canceled after its brilliant final season, this short-lived sitcom follows the high jinks of Michael (Jason Bateman) and his motley family via serpentine plots and silver-tongued dialogue. Justine Bateman guest-stars as a hooker with a heart of gold in a great episode titled, naturally, "Family Ties."

P.R.



Pixies: Acoustic - Live in Newport

★★★★

Alt-rock heroes tone down noise

Eagle Rock

On the same stage where Dylan plugged in, the Pixies go unplugged at this 2004 Newport Folk Festival performance. The stripped-back tunes actually work, and a chain-smoking Kim Deal proves to be a master of harmony and vocal phrasing. A bonus rehearsal shows their struggle to turn rugged rock into acoustic gold.

KEVIN O'DONNELL



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