

VARIOUS ARTISTS

Bloodied But Unbowed: Bloodshot Records' Life in the Trenches [BLOODSHOT] ★★★

Chicago label's first DVD chronicles its first dozen years

Bloodshot Records' mission as an independent business could be summed up by a line from Jon Langford's song, "Over the Cliff": "Success on someone else's terms don't mean a fuckin' thing." That's the crux of *Bloodied But*

Unbowed: Bloodshot Records' Life in the Trenches, which collects videos, live footage, posters, photos and short documentaries. Clips range from raucous (Old 97's), poignant (The Sundowners) and promising (Deadstring Brothers) to dated (Split Lip Rayfield) and dull (Robbie Fulks), showing how close to greatness and caricature the label—and the alt.country movement itself—has veered. Unfortunately, too many of the documentaries focus on Bloodshot itself, giving largely unin-



formative looks at the label and settling on a strange balance of self-deprecating humor and self-mythologizing rebellion. There's a "business model predicated on passion rather than the bottom line," narrator Sally Timms states. That passion comes through on *Bloodied But Unbowed*, though sometimes a little too forcefully. *Stephen M. Deusner*

RADIOHEAD

OK Computer: A Classic Album Under Review [MVD] ★★★

Talking heads take on Radiohead

The new Radiohead DVD is reminiscent of a public-television documentary: aesthetically minimal and



information-packed. It features an in-depth, almost academic analysis of the band's seminal 1997 album *OK*

Computer by six critics, biographers and musicologists who dissect the band and the album from personal, professional and technical perspectives. Working their way song by song through the entire

album, they discuss everything from lyrical content to album art in between disappointingly incomplete clips of concert footage and album recordings of songs. To their credit, much of what these six have to say is quite interesting, even for those of us who aren't hardcore Radiohead fans (I know, I know... heresy). Their commentary places the album in a broader cultural context and helps make Thom Yorke and his bandmates seem a little more accessible. Still, for all but the most devoted Radiohead fans, repeat viewings of this DVD may have you "Climbing Up The Walls"—out of boredom. *Katie Heimer*

MY MORNING JACKET

Okonokos: Live Concert Film

[ATO/RCA] ★★★½

Concert-film companion piece adds visual and conceptual components to double-live album of same name

Considered in some quarters to be the best live act in the United States, My Morning Jacket was obviously playing to its strengths with this year's *Okonokos*, an eclectic two-disc live set drawn from two nights at San Francisco's Fillmore West. But any-

one who's actually seen the Kentucky quintet perform can attest that at least part of their appeal is due to MMJ's charismatic performances, with the band often stretching its arrangements into gorgeously unwinding jams that end in a flurry



of twin lead-guitar solos and flying manes of hair. *Okonokos: Live Concert Film* doesn't disappoint, with the band bathed in murky

blue and golden tones and flanked by patchy trees and forest motifs that accentuate the ethereal and mysterious qualities of the band's playing. Mirroring the constantly shifting energy of the performance, the point of view switches from close-ups and crowd shots to footage from the vantage of a mustachioed man in Victorian garb who's attending the show with an alpaca, and whose dreamlike vignettes bookend the film. The meaning of such images is never clear, but when the music does the talking, it couldn't be more articulate. *Matt Fink*

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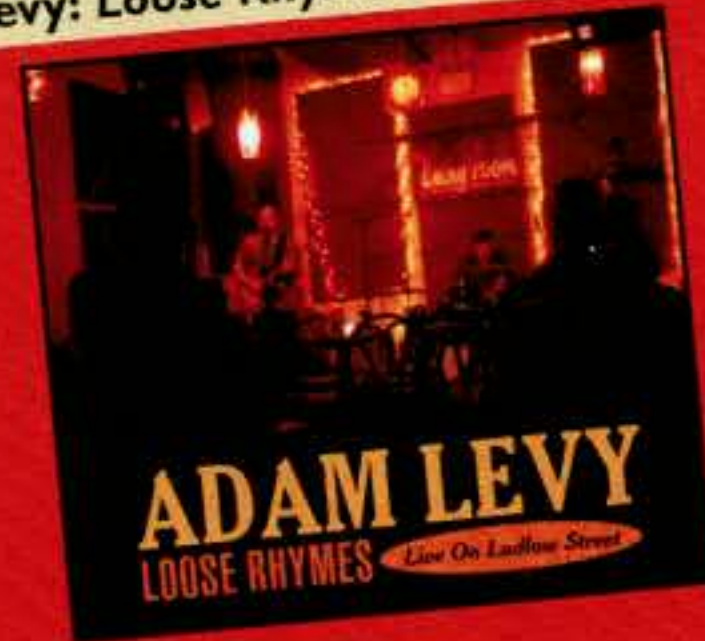


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