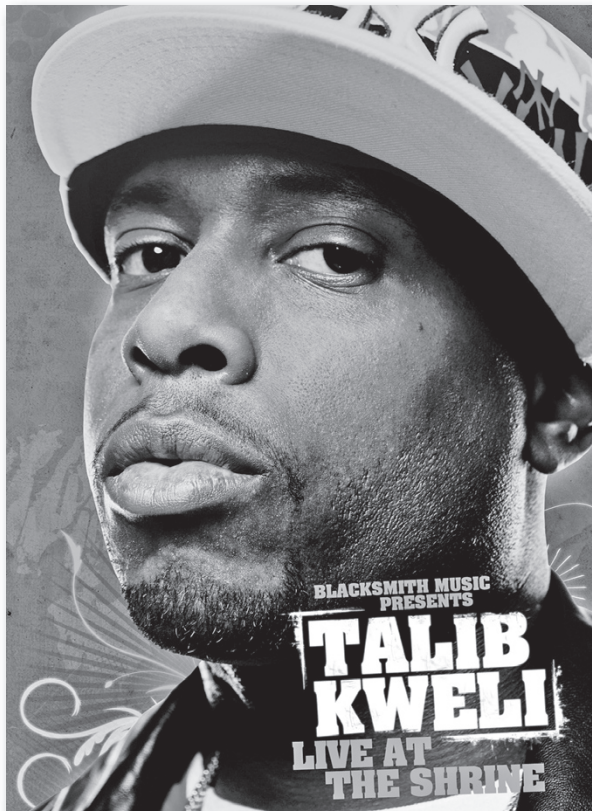


+OFF THE RECORD
The greater goods



TALIB KWELI

Live at the Shrine
[Fortress]

Talib Kweli's *Live At The Shrine* DVD beautifully captures one of hip-hop's best MCs during one of his best nights on stage. Kweli's set features 16 songs from his solo career, Black Star, Reflection Eternal and numerous guest spots. In addition, the show features Res on "Too Late" and fellow Blacksmith labelmate Strong Arm Steady on "One Step." However, the most notable surprise guest is also the source of the biggest drawback about this DVD. Closing his set with "The Perfect Beat" off his *Ear Drum* album, KRS-One joins Kweli on stage for what turns into a classic freestyle session. Seeing the two of these BK MCs bring out the best in one another is quite inspiring. The encore includes KRS-One performing such classic material as "South Bronx" and "Breaks" in addition to kicking his signature freestyle. Clips from this encore were provided in the KRS-One interview. This DVD concentrates on Kweli's performance exclusively to a fault. The KRS-One encore should have been included in its entirety as a bonus. Also, during Kweli's interview, he reveals that he really enjoyed watching Psycho Realm and Strong Arm Steady perform earlier in the night. While including Psycho Realm might not have made sense, the Strong Arm Steady set should have been included, again as a bonus, especially if Blacksmith is indeed the movement. The DVD fails to put this show into any context (in terms of when it took place), and the interviews are more promotion than anything truly behind-the-scenes. However, seeing Phil Da Agony, KronDon and Jelly Roll, dance and assume the roll of backup singers during Kweli's dress rehearsal of "Never Been In Love" can't help but make you smile. This a great concert but with out many interesting or substantial extras it is only an average DVD. [Jason Kordich]



HATEBREED

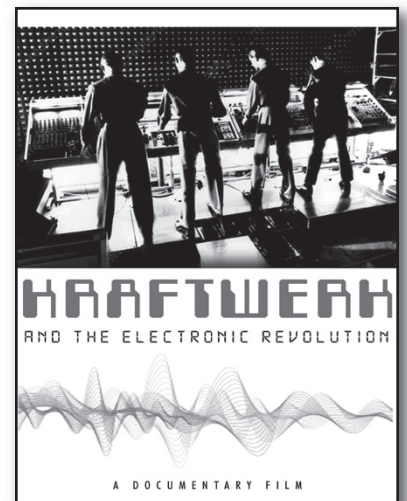
Live Dominance
[Koch DVD]

While new "cores" — math-core, death-core, pop-core — keep popping up, Connecticut's Hatebreed has steadfastly stuck to its metal/hardcore guns for more than a decade. And by the rabid reaction of the crowd at Harpo's in Detroit, where *Live Dominance* was shot, it's a strategy that still works in spades. The club floor looks like an ultimate fighting battle royale as Hatebreed hurtles through the full-on hardcore of "Straight To Your Face" and "Smash Your Enemies" and the crunching thrash of "Destroy Everything," "I Live For This" and "Never Let It Die." Pit-based cameras capture some of the action, and if split lips are your thing, this would have been the place to be. Frontman Jamey Jasta's ceaseless crowd-baiting can be pretty annoying, but when the band is rocking, duck and cover. Sans the tired breakdowns, death metal trappings and clean/scream vocal gymnastics so many new "core" comers employ in the name of being "unique," Hatebreed's relatively old-school beatdown feels like a breath of fresh air. [Peter Atkinson]

KRAFTWERK

Kraftwerk And The Electronic Revolution
[MVD DVD]

Kraftwerk, who rocked at Coachella this past year, may not have invented electronic music, but their influence upon it has been immense and long-lasting. Starting in late-1960s Dusseldorf as part of the great experimental wave of *kosmische* rock, Kraftwerk, by the mid-1970s eventually pared down their sound to a highly-influential dance minimalism; a sort of robot funk kindred enough yet sufficiently far removed from the sweat-haunch stuff being manufactured in America to be hailed as radically new and exciting. This three-hour, unauthorized disc does a good job of fixing the act in their context and serves as a thorough primer for this important act. [Ron Garmon]



NASHVILLE PUSSY

Live! In Hollywood
[MVD Visual]

Nashville Pussy intentionally avoids good taste, from its attention-grabbing moniker to its hard living song titles. Yet it also consistently cooks up tasty, Southern fried rock. Unabashedly a redneck, guitarist/vocalist Blaine Cartwright calls Jack Daniels the honorary fifth band member when introducing "Hate and Whiskey" on *Live! In Hollywood*. Cartwright is flanked by two females, Ruyter Suys (guitar) and Karen Cuda (bass), who also help sing Ike & Tina Turner's "Nutbush City Limits," while Jeremy Thompson sits behind the drums during this recent Key Club show. DVD extras, subtitled "Pussy's Home Movies," are hardly anything special. But when the band meets Marianne Faithfull, the irony is tangible as one of pop's class act makes small talk with these sloppy blue collar rockers. [Dan MacIntosh]

STATIC-X

Cannibal Killers
[Reprise DVD]

L.A.'s Static-X has yet to recapture the commercial lightning in a bottle of its 1999 platinum debut *Wisconsin Death Trip*. But led by frontman Wayne Static and his towering hair, the band can certainly still bring it live, as evidenced by this few-frills DVD. Static's briskly paced set here clocks in at just an hour, yet encompasses 17 tracks of the band's signature bottom-heavy, industrial-tinged, staccato-paced metal amalgam it calls "evil disco." Anchored by the propulsive rhythms of bassist Tony Campos and drummer Nick Oshiro, new material like "Destroyer" and "Cannibal" and the old nuggets "I'm With Stupid" and "Push It" are delivered with equal vigor, conviction and punch as Static bobs, weaves and barks like a man possessed. His odd mannerisms, and unique visage, are a perfect match the band's quirky music and make *Cannibal Killers* that much more fun to watch. [Peter Atkinson]

