

Martin Courtney and Matt Mondanile. The band wrapped up at 2 a.m., finishing with an extended version of "All The Same" and leaving the crowd thoroughly satisfied. The egg rolls were good, too. KEVIN KORBER

**New York Dolls**  
*New York Dolls: Lookin' Fine on Television*  
(MVD VISUAL)

New York Dolls are undoubtedly an essential part of rock 'n' roll history. Their newly released DVD, *Lookin' Fine on Television*, compiles early live performances and rare interviews. Sure, the audio and picture quality are terrible, but it's fascinating to see this incredibly influential band in their prime.

This collection features all the early songs a fan could hope for. On "Frankenstein," the band gets into character, with David Johansen eerily stiff throughout, in contrast to his usual Mick Jagger-esque style. It's hard to take your eyes off Johansen as his "Frankenstein" chant escalates from a low growl to a deep scream. "Trash" is a bit faster, heavier and straight up punk rockier than the album version. The band has fun with this one, bouncing around to the song's catchy hook. It's easy to imagine soon to be punk rock stars moshing around in the audience. The real gem, however, is the



interview with Johansen, as he shares crazy tour stories. Even as the discussion gets a bit racy, Johansen possesses a certain charm that makes him consistently engaging.

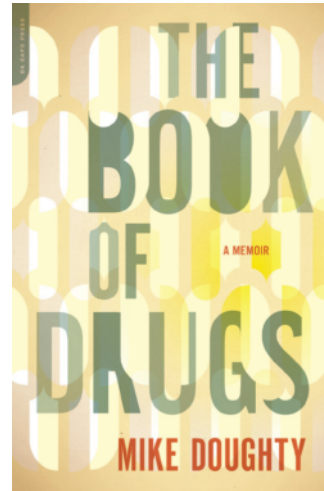
Regardless of video quality, this DVD is a must have. Who wants to see these pre-punk rockers in high definition anyway? It doesn't seem to be their style. JOANNA HURLEY

**Talking Heads**  
*Chronology*  
(EAGLE VISION)

*Chronology* takes its title literally, gathering live performances from the 15-year career of Talking Heads and showing them in chronological order. Eschewing the documentary format in favor of letting the performances speak for themselves, the collection does a fantastic job of tracking the New York band from their beginnings as minimalist art-school punks to their eventual enshrinement in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Footage of early gigs at CBGB and The Kitchen in New York show the trio of David Byrne, Chris Frantz and Tina Weymouth shakily working their way through songs that would end up on *Talking Heads: 77*, yet the taut nervousness that would define the band's early live show is there, albeit in an embryonic form. You then see them get better as they get bigger with featured performances on *Saturday Night Live* and *American Bandstand* (complete with a brilliantly awkward Dick Clark interview) and culminating with the reunited band tearing through "Life During Wartime" at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony in 2002. Extras include a commentary track by the band and an interesting half-hour documentary that looks at the

band's writing process for *Fear of Music*. While slim on extras, the live performances of one of America's finest bands make this collection necessary viewing. KEVIN KORBER



**Mike Doughty**  
*The Book of Drugs: A Memoir*  
(DA CAPO)

Mike Doughty, lead singer of '90s alternative rock band Soul Coughing, provides a tell-all account of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll in his memoir, *The Book of Drugs*. Compared to contemporaries who seem to glamorize the boozing and abusing, Doughty is brutally honest about his addiction—at times, unnerving.

Without chapter breaks, the stream-of-consciousness plot remains uninterrupted, difficult to pinpoint when and where the addiction begins, symbolic of how quickly one can lose control. Here, Doughty openly discusses how his bandmates, media and the industry kicked him over, his failed relationships and the struggles he faced as a solo artist after the deterioration of Soul Coughing. Just as easy as it was for him to lose control, recovery arrives as Doughty shakes hands with the 12-step program. Without preaching (he cringes at the word God), Doughty advocates

the need for self-acceptance, making *The Book of Drugs* a universal read.

Despite the critical mediocrity of Soul Coughing, Mike Doughty shines as a writer. His prose, both didactic and insightful, is nothing short of extraordinary. MELISSA CARUSO

**The Beatles**  
*Strange Fruit: The Beatles' Apple Records*  
(MVD)

*Strange Fruit: The Beatles' Apple Records* traces the saga of what was perhaps the most famous and glorified British record label in the history of modern music. When the Beatles began their brainchild in 1968, Apple was intended to be an all-around creative wheelhouse of music, art, film and fashion, and soon became a hub for eccentrics and people looking for a ride on the coat-tails of the four lads from Liverpool. *Strange Fruit* offers an inside perspective from the cast of characters that comprised the dysfunctional Apple family, shedding new light onto the musical rollercoaster that ensued.

What started out as a utopian dream label, boasting artist friendly ideals (which John Lennon dubbed Western Communism) and new approaches to finding talent and marketing soon proved to be a leaking ship at violent seas. Insight on the rise and fall of Apple comes from those who were along for the rough ride such as Jackie Lomax, members of Badfinger and esteemed industry insiders. Laced with exclusive interviews, rare footage and the monumental soundtrack that Apple Records unleashed, *Strange Fruit* strips naked the relationships of the Beatles as they rode the wave together and then drifted their own ways. JOHN FIGLESTHALER