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... - ENTERTAINMENT - MUSIC - RICKY FLAKE

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Sound check: Theresa Andersson returns to recording; Deep Purple performances; and a Beatles DVD

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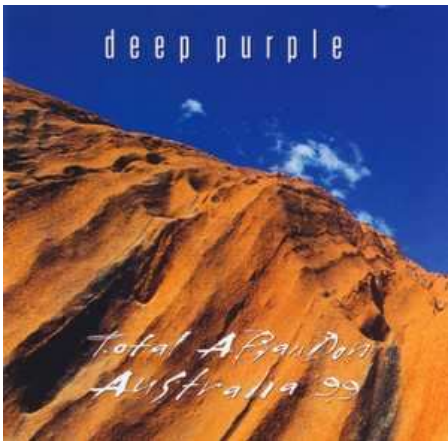
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Gillan's voice had lost top end by this time but the classic songs still made a great concert.

More Purple Performances

The three studio albums released by Eagle Rock last year from Purple MK I each contain a couple of live or radio broadcast songs. Later in 2011, several double-disc releases capture the MK II, MK III and a 1976 version of live Rainbow almost completes things for average Purple fans. The expansive DVD set mentioned above and the tragic "Phoenix Rising" DVD (the doomed MK IV lineup) seals the deal for completists.



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'Strange Fruit: The Beatles' Apple Records,' (MVDvisual, HHHH)

This April 24 DVD tells the story of The Beatles' Apple Records, which opened its doors in 1968. The Beatles, together and solo, were the main artists on the label; but the music made by many artists and bands lives on long after other parts of the Apple Enterprise like the clothing boutique failed.

Jackie Lomax, Mary Hopkin, James Taylor, Billy Preston and Badfinger/The Iveys were among the distinguished roster. Some were assisted by Beatles as producers or studio musicians, but all produced music that is still relevant today. New interviews with Ron Griffiths (The Iveys' bassist), Joey Molland (Badfinger's only survivor), former Apple exec Tony Bramwell, Jackie Lomax, David Peel and others tell about the label's initial Utopian promise and declining days.

Beatles fans and those curious about the first artist-owned label will enjoy this program.

'Sugar on the Floor,' Lynn Drury (Old Shoes Productions, HHHH)

Lynn Drury played Bay St. Louis' Mockingbird Café last fall, and this newly released CD was likely on sale at the show. Former Continental Drifters collaborator Carlo Nuccio produced this album as well as adding drums/bass on every track and other instruments on some. There are a lot of top New Orleans players enlisted by Carlo and Lynn present as well.

Highlight songs include the horn-laden "Smiley Face," the reminiscent "Frenchmen Street" and the bluesy "Blue Streak."

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There are lots of good tunes here, even if the album probably doesn't represent what most attendees of Lynn's shows will see. This Mississippi girl has a bright musical future in New Orleans.

Ricky Flake, a former punk rocker and current music fan, lives in Biloxi.

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