

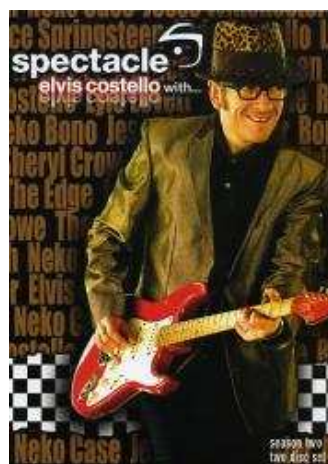


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## Elvis Costello Spectacle 2



**Spectacle**  
**Elvis Costello with...**  
**Season Two**  
(MVD)

*Spectacle* is just a great music show. Hosted by Elvis Costello, the show features conversations with and performances by an eclectic group of musicians, and the 2-disc set for *Season Two* is packed to the gills with over seven hours of quality entertainment. On one show, Elvis hosts Bono and The Edge from U2, with a beautiful acoustic version of "Stuck in a Moment You Can't Get Out Of" along with many other great performances, including Elvis Costello and The

Imposters doing U2s "Mysterious Ways." Then there's the episode that features songwriters in the round with Elvis, Sheryl Crow, Neko Case, Ron Sexsmith and Jesse Winchester. Great stories and songs, including Jesse and Sheryl singing "Brand New Tennessee Waltz," Ron and Elvis doing "Everyday I Write the Book," and everyone backing Sheryl on "If it Makes You Happy."

On the third episode, Elvis assembles a supergroup featuring Levon Helm, Nick Lowe, Richard Thompson, Allen Toussaint doing songs like "Tennessee Jed," "The Weight" and "Rag Mama Rag." There are so many special moments here, it would take several thousand words to describe it all.

One of the episodes turns the spotlight on the host as actress Mary Louise Parker (Weeds) interviewing Costello, who performs a few of his great songs like "Motel Matches," "So Like Candy," "I Don't Want to Go to Chelsea," "Town Cryer" and "Brilliant Mistake."

Elvis explores the singer songwriter with an episode featuring John Prine, Lyle Lovett and Ray LaMontagne. Songs include Prine's brilliant "Lake Marie," and Lyle's "Natural Forces."

In a two part series, Elvis brings Bruce Springsteen in, and the resulting two hours are a couple of the best hours of TV I have ever experienced. We learn more about Bruce than I ever knew, and I





thought I had heard all of his stories.

Music is through the roof, with Elvis and The Imposters with Nils Lofgren doing Bruce's "She's The One," Bruce doing "Wild Billy's Circus Story," "American Skin (41 Shots)," "The Rising," and a brilliant medley of "Radio Silence/Radio Nowhere/Radio Radio" with Elvis, "Seeds" and an acoustic "Oh Pretty Woman," with Elvis and Bruce harmonizing on Roy Orbison's classic. The two guys are obviously having a ball, and after a spirited talk about Sam & Dave, they stand up and do their very best tribute on "I Can't Stand Up for Falling Down." The guys discuss family, politics and lots of music. Epic is how I would describe the show.



So all in all, *Season Two* is just a musical joy ride. One that I plan to take again very soon.

*-Michael Buffalo Smith*

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### **UNIVERSAL MUSIC TRIBE**

714 Elam Way

Moore, SC 29369

Email: [michaelbuffalosmith@gmail.com](mailto:michaelbuffalosmith@gmail.com)

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