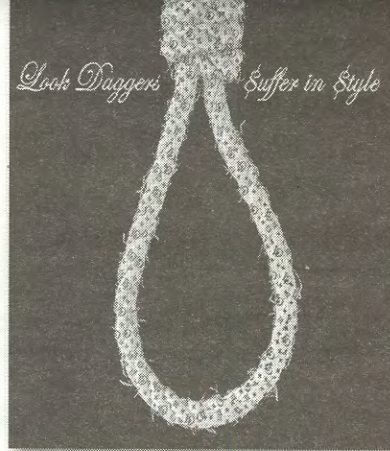


**CLUTCH**  
*Full Fathom Five:*  
*Video Field Recordings*  
 2007-2008  
 [Weathermaker]

Hard rock eccentrics Clutch launched their own label with this no-frills but nonetheless enjoyable DVD — along with its companion CD, *Audio Field Recordings*. It's easy to see here why the these Marylanders have been a cult favorite for nearly two decades. Equal parts blues-metal powerhouse and nerdy stoner jam band — with some Zappa-esque irreverence mixed in thanks to Neil Fallon's obtuse lyrics and deadpan delivery — Clutch never put on airs, they just plug in and rock. Instead of playing some fancy showcase gig for the DVD, the band filmed a series of club and theater shows where the stages are Spartan and the lighting is modest, but the crowds are digging the band's every note. There's no extras here to speak of — bonus videos, interviews nor Handycam footage of backstage hijinx — which is by no means a bad thing, given the retarded antics many music DVDs revel in. *Full Fathom Five*, instead, truly is a live album on video, and as such it's a pretty damn good one. [Peter Atkinson]



*Alive For Now In Long Beach*  
 [Up Above]

Acclaimed indie rapper 2Mex and The Mars Volta key to form a hip-hop/rock band “that didn’t sound like the project, Look Diggers, does just that and so much more improvisational jazz, rock jams and loose-limbed fun depicted on *Alive For Now In Long Beach*, the company’s full-length debut, *Suffer in Style*. From the footage of a show at Haskell’s Prospector restaurant in Long Beach, interview footage from the wholly earnest 2Mex, Owen and collaborators, Look Diggers is an exercise in pure home making — people getting together and jamming for the rhymes. [Jimmy Richardson]

**GORGOROTH**  
*Black Mass Krakow 2004*  
 [Metal Mind Productions DVD]

Intent on cementing its reputation as the most evil band in the world, Norway's notorious Gorgoroth pulled out all the black metal stops for its 2004 Krakow video shoot — and all hell literally broke loose as a result. Polish authorities seized the footage, lurid news of the gig horrified the country and the band nearly was charged with “offending religious feelings.” Four years later, Gorgoroth’s “black mass” is finally available, and it is quite a gruesome spectacle. As if the live crucifixions with gore-splattered nude models — male and female — weren’t enough, sheep heads are everywhere — impaled on stakes, laying in heaps, lining the front of the stage. Add flaming torches, barbed wire and the satanic caterwauling of one of black metal’s few truly terrifying bands and *Black Mass Krakow* is utterly assaultive and unquestionably offensive. Mission accomplished. [Peter Atkinson]



*Heavy Metal In Baghdad*  
 [Vice Films]

*Heavy Metal in Baghdad*, a documentary about an Iraq band has very little to do with heavy metal music. Granted, the band is a Metallica-loving hard rock act from the Middle East. Moretti and Suroosh Alvi mainly expose the horrifying life of an average Baghdad citizen via their film — all through the eyes of filmmakers. We find out from band members, for instance, that anyone — not even the police — in this war-torn region is in danger. Violence is often random, a fact tragically driven home when a practice space gets bombed, seemingly for no particular reason. A safe place to interview the band is even a trial because they are everywhere, ready to blow away innocent bystanders. The film comes off far more ambitious than talented, yet you can't help but root for them. And you don't merely wish them career success; you wish them another power chord another day. [Dan MacIntosh]

**BLACK UHURU**  
*Live in London*  
 [Nacional/No Joke Entertainment]

In the post-Bob Marley landscape, Black Uhuru are undisputed legends. They were the first reggae group to win a Grammy for their 1983 album *Anthem*. The new 25th Anniversary Edition of their classic *Live in London* captures the group — Derrick “Duckie” Simpson, Mikel Rose and Sandra “Puma” Jones backed by iconic rhythm section Sly & Robbie — in top-of-the-heap form, performing great songs like “Shine Eye Girl” (Barrington Levy fans will find this tune familiar), “Simsemilla” and “General Penitentiary.” This is heavy-heavy roots with great spiritual conviction — just check out the vocal trio for “I Love King Selassie.” The only DVD extra is a photo gallery of never-before-seen black-and-white stills spanning the group’s career, so those hoping for a short bio or documentary on this very important act won’t find it here. Overall, this release captures a great set. [Matt Tania]

