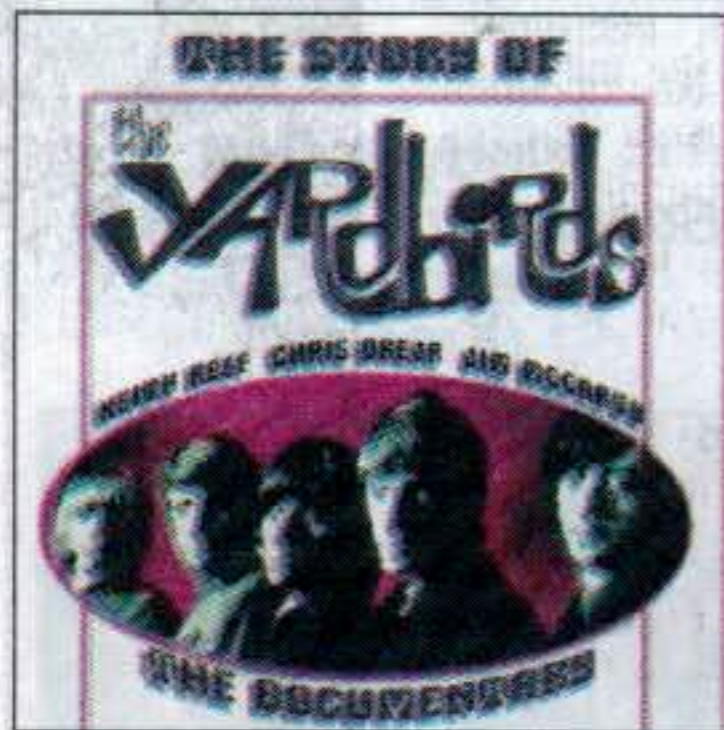


incredible singer and one to chase down, for sure.

-Todd Zacharitz • Rating: 5

The Yardbirds
The Story of the Yardbirds
(Zeit Media Limited)
www.theyardbirds.com



Music is like the wind. Our souls are carried upon it. Artists channel the struggles, fears, wants, and joys of a generation into this surrogate. But, like the wind, music changes. It evolves. Rarely does a single band endure the sands of time to become a classic—not a relic—but a timeless standard.

The most short-lived of these "superbands" is the Yardbirds. Reigning over the music world from 1963-1968, they accomplished

more in five years than most musicians do in a lifetime. Lead by sensational vocalist/harmonica player, Keith Relf, the Yardbirds placed electric guitar in the spotlight and catapulted blues-rock into the mainstream. Their unconventional use of distortions built hard rock from the framework of twelve-bar blues. Not only this, but the band brought three of history's most influential guitarists into the public eye – Jimmy Page (Led Zeppelin), Jeff Beck, and Eric Clapton. And now they're back...

HIQ's release of *The Story of the Yardbirds* isn't so much a stand alone feature as a tribute to the Yardbirds. More importantly, it's a marketing tool for the band's new lineup and material designed to integrate Britain's Yardbirds into the culture of today's youth. Their new album (the first release since 1967's *Little Games*) features some star-studded collaboration with artists including Slash and Steve Vai. True to form, the band believes they have found the next master guitarist – 21-year-old Ben King.

Although the new mix sounds promising, the DVD used to market it was remarkably lackluster. Vintage footage that you can find anywhere, hackneyed interviews with band members, and the absence of new material make *The Story of the Yardbirds* feel like a history class documentary. The unentertaining DVD offers little valuable insight into the world

that Chris Dreya, Jim McCarty, Keith Relf and their three godlike guitarists created.

-Ben Glenn • Rating: 1.5

Clutch
Full Fathom Five - Audio Field Recordings
2007-2008 CD
(Weathermaker Music)

Survivors of the Nineties alt.rock/metal explosion, Maryland's Clutch have seen their share of ups and downs. Their gigging around the DC area and their sheer perseverance has rewarded them with a 15-year career, and a fair share of fans that have followed the band through the major label days and beyond. This live album, recorded through four gigs around the US and Australia, features some big and mean rock - raw and ugly as it should be. Imagine a melding of funky groove metal (think Faith No More, maybe) with heavy post-Sabbath blues riff-rock. It's not elegant or reserved, but more of a sweat-and-spittle sort of thing; well-suited for overloading PAs at clubs and bars. On the blues tip, "Electric Worry" takes cues from Mississippi Fred McDowell (and also shares a posthumous co-writing credit), and is among the more successful songs here. The sound is crisp, and the band at the top of their game. Preach on, brothers.

-Todd Zacharitz • Rating: 3 ●

