



**Bob Dylan: The Golden Years 1962 – 1978** / Chrome Dreams DVD IS006  
**Johnny Cash: The Man • His World His Music** / Cherry Red Films CRDVD002N

Both of these DVDs are reissues of things we've reviewed before. The Dylan DVD set, however, includes the earlier title Tales From A Golden Age: Bob Dylan 1941 – 1966, where all we reviewed was the second disc Bob Dylan 1966 - 1978: After The Crash. I would say that owing to the intellectual content of his lyrics Dylan is the one artist whose work most invites obsessive analysis. I'm guessing you already know whether you enjoy that sort of thing, or whether you much prefer to let the music speak for itself. These DVDs of course don't actually include any of Dylan's music, so if you want one that does the one produced by Martin Scorsese, and approved by/participated in by Dylan himself is the one for you. However, my guess is that if you're far enough into him or his art to buy that title, you're far enough in to want this too. I did learn something I didn't know from it: Dylan went to England for 3 weeks early on in his career, and absorbed influences there which turned up immediately in his songs. This set was produced by the British based magazine **Isis**, which of course is the all Dylan mag.

The Cash DVD is the same late '60s film we recently reviewed. Neither of them say so, but I swear they all were sent by Music Video Distributors (MVD), which should mean they are widely available. –MB

**The Original Country Joe Band: Turned UP And Turned On** / Secret Films MVD 4587

I well remember the first time I heard Country Joe's "Feel Like I'm Fixin' To Die Rag". It came on the underground radio station at my college and my roommate and I turned it up and proceeded to square dance around our miniscule dorm room, filled with a bunk bed and two desks. In this DVD the original band, minus Barry "The Fish" Melton play a concert at South Parade Pier in the UK, a location they are referred to in the introduction to their encore tune as having played in 1969. Though the lighting was not particularly conducive to videography, and the program is unedited in terms of you get to see him turn around and take a drink from his water bottle between each song, it's a relatively pleasant experience. They sounded quite good, and the most moving song for me this time was "Janis" although I enjoyed hearing several of their other classic numbers as well as a couple of newer tunes. The real meat of it though, turned out to be the interview segment, with Country Joe being as articulate as ever, and patiently resisting the interviewer's attempt to find out how LSD had influenced Joe's music. The whole DVD is worth owning just for this extended interview on the end of the pier, with sailboats in the background. The concert is really the bonus feature, and there is also a biography, though I think you get the important aspects of that from the interview. The package has this - "Warning: Contains Strobe Lighting", so if you're epileptic, you might prefer to stay away from the concert part. I didn't even notice that. MVDVisual.com -MB

**Soulvation: The Best Of Northern Soul** / Wienerworld WNRD 7029

I reviewed a collection of obscure Northern Soul last issue, now we have a DVD with 20 more songs, only one of which ("With This Ring" by **the Platters**) I had ever heard, though I had heard of several more of the artists: **Brenda Holloway, Kim Weston, Edwin Starr, The Artistics, Lee Andrews And The Hearts, and Betty Lavette**. The subtitle of this is a bit misleading, "Classic Anthems Performed By The Original Artists." These are lip synched performances made into music videos, although in a couple or more cases it looked as though the artists were actually performing in a recording studio, and possibly singing at least part of the track you hear. Although the package says

“includes previously unseen footage” there is very little in the way of vintage clips involved, though it appears there are a couple or so, edited in. About 80% of the artists make comments before the song starts, in some cases about the circumstances around writing and/or recording the song. More often they just express amazement that these songs which never were hits in their time (mostly the mid to late ‘60s) have now turned them into stars in this Northern Soul movement in England. In defense of the music, most of it is fresher than the Motown hits they were chasing, which may be why the songs are making a splash now. Some of the footage shows artists or groups performing live, though synched up with the record – no way to know whether they also lip synched to the record at these performances. I was hoping for vintage performance clips, but as the songs weren’t hits then, the artists had no great reason to perform them on TV. Still, it’d be nice! Wienerworld.com -MB

**The Drifters / Greatest Hits Live / MVDVisual DVD8085X**

I can certainly understand the point of a tribute act, since we won’t have the original artists forever, as Elvis proved. In this case a couple of these guys did sing with Johnny Moore’s version of the Drifters for the last year he was alive, and they have been carrying on the sound to the best of their abilities since. One thing I didn’t know was that Moore apparently moved to England and the Drifters recorded a number of hits over there in the ‘70s, in addition to having some that were recorded here but were only hits there. So this DVD has 31 songs on it, followed by interview sections with Johnny’s English wife, son, manager, producer (Roger Greenaway), and the current singers, two of whom have British accents. While nothing can ever equal those great original recordings, I do admire this group’s avowed intention to carry the group on, including the attempt to add to the legacy with new material. Toward that end there is one song at the end with Gary Brooker which is new, called “A World Of Love”. There is also a new 20 song CD with this group, and which includes 3 live videos: “A World Of Love”, “Stand By Me” (alternate gospel version), and “White Christmas.” This group is actually called The Drifters UK, perhaps because of trademark disputes relating to whoever is using the name here in the States. About a third of the songs on the DVD are very familiar hits, with another handful being familiar songs. But it’s clear from the audience reaction that when they finish with “Kissin’ In The Back Row Of The Movies” that it was a major hit over there. –MB

**Blues, Rags & Hollers: The Koerner, Ray & Glover Story / MVDVisual DM0509D**

We reviewed this excellent documentary about the Folk Blues trio from the Twin Cities some years back. Now it’s available on DVD, and has 9 more songs – quite the bonus! The original documentary was done in 1986, and the bonus performances come from 1991 – ’99. I met a guy in college who thought that Bob Dylan had potential to be the greatest white Country Blues artist ever before he went back to Rock’n’Roll, and these guys were a big part of the scene he came up in before heading out to New York. Koerner was interviewed extensively for the Dylan documentary reviewed above, in fact. This belongs in the collection of anyone interested in the Folk Blues revival. MVDVisual.com –MB

**Solomon Burke / The Kinng Live At AVO Session Basel / MVDVisual MVDV4608**

Solomon Burke certainly puts on a great show, and although there’s no substitute for being there, this DVD does a good job. He was on a double bill in Switzerland opening for Melanie C – one of the Spice Girls, but it doesn’t seem like he left much in the audience for them to give her! During his 18 song set (12 songs were the band opening the show, and one each for two of his offspring who were backup vocalists) he masterfully worked the audience and built them up to a frenzy. It did seem at first the Swiss were holding back a bit, but by then end he had several of them dancing on stage and singing with him. I’m not sure why on the outside of the package he’s called the Kinng of Soul, while on the inner package he’s the King of Rock’n’Soul, the way he has billed himself since the ‘60s. Maybe he producers thought he was claiming kingship of two genres, and that was over the top, but in the ‘60s we perceived Rock’n’Soul as a genre of its own. In fact Country Joe sings about it in his DVD reviewed above, too. MVDVisual.com –MB

**Cruisin Hits Of The 60’s / Quantum Leap QLDVD 6610**

This company obviously intends to continue repackaging stuff we’ve reviewed, with perhaps two or three new tracks we hadn’t seen. Most of this we’ve recently reviewed, but there are a couple tracks with Wolfman Jack, and one with Roger McGuinn that I don’t remember seeing, though I may have - there’s been such a blizzard of this stuff. Anyhow, 20 songs by as many different artists. Look at last issue to see a list of some of the artists, or check the website. Taped in Florida at the Rock’n Roll Palace. MVDVisual.com -MB