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Blowing Fuses Left & Right: The Legendary Detroit Rock Interviews (MVD Visual DVD)/Chrome Dreams CD Music Archive Series: George Harrison's Jukebox + The Lowdown: David Bowie (w/DVD) + The Lowdown: Paramore + Townes Van Zandt: Down Home (concert)/Jupiter's Darling (1955/MGM/Warner Archive DVD)/Love For Levon (2012 Concert/Star Vista DVD w/CD Set)/Solomon Burke: Live At Montreux 2006 (Eagle DVD)/Tanglewood 75th Anniversary Celebration (2012/C Major/Naxos Blu-ray)



Picture: C/X/C/X/X/C+/C+/C+/B- Sound: C+/B-/C+/C+/B-/C+/B-/B/B-
 Extras: D/C/C-/C-/C-/B-/C-/C+ Main Programs: B- (Jupiter: C)

Now for a wide range of new music releases...

Gil Margulis' **Blowing Fuses Left & Right: The Legendary Detroit Rock Interviews** is a vital compilation of three interviews with three key rockers: Ron Asheton of The Stooges and two members of the MC5: Rob Tyner (singer) and Dennis Thompson (drummer). A raw, rough set of interviews by a big fan who knew what questions to ask, fans, musicologists and musicians interested in the genre and history will want to get this disc.

Even if you are not a fan, these are unedited and deserve to be on DVD. There are no extras.

Next we have more interviews, this time from the **Under Review** gang in what we'll call the **Chrome Dreams CD Music Archive Series**. **George Harrison's Jukebox** is actually a collection of 27 wide-ranging songs we are told influenced the young Beatle and we get a booklet that explains it all. **The Lowdown: David Bowie** has an audio CD with a bunch of vintage interviews including with familiar TV personalities (thus it is TV audio) with Mike Douglas, Dinah Shore, Don Kirshner and Dick Cavett plus we get a DVD of his early years with none of his original music but good interviews of people at the time who were there with film, video and stills, **The Lowdown: Paramore** is just two CDs of endless interviews for those who are big fans of the trio and **Townes Van Zandt: Down Home** is a classic concert from 1985 by the singer-songwriter that fans and scholars consider a major show done on the radio.

All the CD packaging comes with thin paper pullouts, but only Harrison comes with a bonus booklet talking about how each song influenced him.

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 > A Good Day To Die Hard (2013/Fox Blu-ray w/DVD)
 > Samurai Cop (1989/Cinema Epoch DVD)
 > 56 Up (2012/First Run Features DVD)
 > Mosquita & Mari (2012/Wolfe DVD)
 > Monsieur Verdoux (Blu-ray 1947/Chaplin/Criterion)
 > Dexter – The Seventh Season (2012/Showtime/CBS Blu-rays)
 > Blood Of The Samurai (2001/Cinema Epoch DVD)
 > Tai Chi Hero (2012/aka Tai Chi Hero 2: The Hero Rises / Well Go USA Blu-ray)
 > Glen or Glenda? (1953/Legend Films DVD)

Set during the time of Hannibal (Howard Keel), George Sidney's **Jupiter's Darling** (1955) has to be the most bizarre musical the studio ever greenlit, with odd, forgettable songs, a storyline that all over the place, Marge & Champion Gower dancing and celebrating slavery (she looks like she is ready for **I Dream Of Jeannie**, while Keel looks like he is auditioning to play The Jolly Green Giant in TV ads), Esther Williams shows up swimming with male statues that come to life out of nowhere, any intended comedy never works, George Sanders, William Demerest, Richard Haydn and Michael Ansara cannot overcome the wacky script and even Hermes Pan's choreography is out of his element.

That means this is a strange curio that did not succeed, was an earlier, wider CinemaScope production and I can see why no one talks about this one much. It is MGM out of control trying to stay on top with a genre in decline. No wonder they would move away from Musicals in the years ahead. Still, it is an elaborate curio that should be on DVD.

A theatrical trailer is the only extra.

Colin McAnally's **Love For Levon** is a 2012 Concert as tribute to the recently deceased musician/performer Levon Helm and "A Benefit To Save The Farm" or continue the Midnight Ramblers he made possible. A member of The Band, he was very loved and respected, evidenced by this massive concert. Just look who showed up to play;

Don Was (who co-produced this project), Gregg Allman, Larry Campbell, Marc Cohn, Mavis Staples, Allen Toussaint, Bruce Hornsby, Jakob Dylan, Joan Osborne, John Mayer, Joe Walsh, My Morning Jacket, Roger Waters, G. E. Smith and My Morning Jacket. At 271 minutes, this seems as long as Robert Altman's **Nashville** (1975) and unless you like Country, Blues with a little Rock Music, this might not be a show for you. However, have no doubt, it is as loaded with talent a show as we will see on home video all year.

A nicely illustrated, thick, high quality paper booklet inside the foldout packaging and over two hours of behind the scenes footage and interviews are the extras.

Solomon Burke: Live At Montreux 2006 has the beloved Blues making a rare comeback performance in a nearly 2-hour show with a few dozen classics, some of which are in medley form, but the voice is still there and *Cry To Me*, *Georgia On My Mind*, *(Sittin' On) The Dock Of The Bay*, *In The Midnight Hour*, *Detroit City* and *Tutti Frutti* are among them.

It is a personal triumph over personal issues, problems and misery throughout as Burke had too many lost years, something you might sense even if you do not know his back story. A solid show and a highlight entry on this list, a paper pullout with text and some illustrations in the DVD case is the only extra.

Last but not least is the **Tanglewood 75th Anniversary Celebration** (2012) which has as much talent as the **Levon** release, but in the Classical field as one of the most important places for Classical Music shows and the Arts has a concert party that is nothing short of amazing. Yo Yo Ma, John Williams, Emanuel Ax, Keith Lockhart, Anne Sophie Muller, Andrius Nelsons, Peter Serkin, David Zinman, Stefan Ashbury, John Oliver and James Taylor all take part in the 103 minutes long show that covers key music from the locales past and celebrates American music as well.

We also get some background as the show moves on and this Boston tradition shines with true energy you will not see in any other show. It also has new resonance with the resent awful events at their annual Marathon up there and reminds us why Boston is one of the greatest cities of all time.

Two featurettes and a nicely illustrated booklet with many details are the extras.

For the entries that have images to offer, **Fuses** has old, analog, archival, color analog NTSC videotape that is soft in all three instances of the interviews taped, so its 1.33 X 1 presentation is equally soft and

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problematic as the DVD from the **Bowie** set, which is very old, though the archive clips and stills can look good.

The anamorphically enhanced 2.55 X 1 image on **Jupiter** fares a bit better, but is grainy and the film was issued only in EastmanColor at the time, so it does not have the better color a Technicolor print would have. This material is sometimes a generation down from the grain content and the wide frame is not always used to best advantage. The anamorphically enhanced 1.78 X 1 image on **Levon** and **Burke** are newer HD shoots that have motion blur and limited color of their own, but are no better than the 58-year old film. **Levon** might look better in the also-issued Blu-ray version we did not get and **Burke** deserves a Blu-ray itself.

That leaves the 1080i 1.78 X 1 digital High Definition image on **Tanglewood** and its DTS-HD MA (Master Audio) 5.1 lossless mix the audio and video champs on this list. However, we get motion blur and some detail issues, plus the surround seems confined and maybe more (slightly?) compressed than it should be, which also applies to the PCM 2.0 Stereo also included. The lossy Dolby Digital 2.0 Stereo on Jupiter should be 4.0 since the best 35mm prints of this film were originally designed for 4-track magnetic stereo sound with traveling dialogue and sound effects, but you can barely hear that in this mixdown. Hope the soundmaster is not lost.

The CD PCM 2.0 sound on all five CD entries tend to fall short with the interview sound sometimes (especially on some Bowie and Paramore audio) coming across real rough and the stereo (where applicable) on **Harrison** and **Levon** not with the depth and fidelity I would have liked, even in that old format. The lossy Dolby Digital 5.1 on the **Levon** DVDs fare better, but might be better in lossless mixes, especially if so on the Blu-ray version we did not get. The lossy Dolby Digital 2.0 Mono on **Fuses** definitely shows the rough audio off of those old analog videotapes, but the big surprise is that the DTS 5.1 sound on Burke is the most sonically competent, rich, warm and full entry on the list.

Imagine how it could sound lossless!

- Nicholas Sheffo

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