

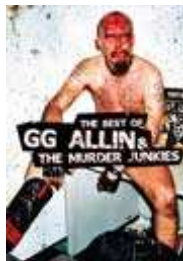


REVIEWS

SHORT REVIEWS

LIVE REVIEWS

ZIN



04.21.09

G.G. Allin & the Murder Junkies

THE BEST OF- (MVD)- Yet even more GG product, this guy has release stuff while in the grave than Tupac. Thanks to brother Merle Allin handling the estate, with more and more releases are coming out. The cover has a shot of GG staring at the camera while naked (the title is covering up his groin, covered in blood and ya' gotta love all those homemade tattoos (especially the drawn hand giving the finger). Anywho, this has footage from the infamous 'The Space at Chase' along with plenty of others seen on the HATED dvd. Some of the highlights are "Bite it You Scum", "Gypsy Motherfucker", "Kill the Police", "I Live to be Hated" and many more. This isn't bad but I suggest if you're going to get one GG dvd make it HATED (which is also released). Bonus; interview with GG's mom from August 2008 (now she was certainly interesting)! www.mvdvisual.com



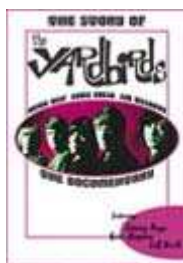
04.21.09

Petula Clark

PORTRAIT OF(MVD)- Dreeeeccccck. Not sure why I thought this might be the best, a fluffy period piece featuring a charmingly naive Brit girl or, at worst, an entertaining chunk of bubble gum culture circa 1969. But, sadly, this DVD is really dull and hokey even by late-1960s prime time television standards. The premise, as clunkily devised in the opening montage featuring Clark clowning around with New Yorkers, Parisians and London bobbies, is that she's seen in three favorite cities. That device is quickly dropped when, in further confusing the issue, she delivers a very unfortunate version of "This Guy's In Love With You." Someone thought it would be a good idea to use a jerky cadence that in no way fits the song's smooth edges and clever chord changes. It's a hammy version that's not even good enough to be considered Vegas. It's Winnemucca, even Elko. Then, when things can't get any worse, here comes, you guessed it, Andy Williams. The seizure-inducing tandem butchers what might have been kind of a cool song called "Heart." But I'll never hear it again without recalling how Williams's wormy forehead shimmered throughout with what looked to be a cold, painkiller addiction-fueled cold sweat. The disconcerting moment belongs to Sacha Distel, who croons a fantastic "Love is Blue." I kind of wished that Longet, Williams's wife, would have sang it, but, whatever. Probably couldn't have saved it anyway. There are other annoying moments. Ron Moody, apparently a stage character, performing a dull one-man skit in several guises. Clark trying her best to deliver punchline repartee with Williams and the others. Clark strutting about fashion districts in her "It Girl" Clark singing. Clark existing. Is it good enough for fans? Sure. But that's assuming Petula actually had dyed-in-the-wool fans. "Downtown" was reasonably compelling and "I Know What I Like" deserves far better than the jingle perigatory it now occupies. But Clark just comes off as calculated, a British Idol as it were some 30 years before the franchise was created. The thing left me wondering where Clark fit in between the revolutionary British Invasion and



time and the always-scary Steve and Edie. www.mvdvisual.com ANDY GIEGERICH



04.21.09

Yardbirds

THE STORY OF THE YARDBIRDS (MVD)- I know a lot of people profess the Yardbirds. The guitar-player proving ground (Clapton, Beck, Page) must have been pretty good to host all those great players. And, hell, I guess I could have been the Yardbirds. But it didn't hit me that I'd really not seen, or even heard, the band until watching this functional, if a bit perfunctory, documentary. The Yardbirds were talented but, despite its virtuosos, very raw live. That was news. Another news was that Eric Clapton, who wrote two of the sappiest hits of our lifetimes ("Tears in Heaven" and "You Look Wonderful Tonight"), left the band because he thought, with "For Your Love" they were getting too commercial. The revelation here is Keith Relf, never a polished or particularly tuneful singer but one whose stage presence dwarfed even the magnetic Jimmy Page. The Yardbirds were a jigger of Roger Daltrey mixed with a splash of Brian Jones. The disc's best part is its bonus features, which offers full live versions of two remarkable songs: "Happenings Ten Years Ago" and "Shapes of Things." www.mvdvisual.com ANDY GIEGERICH



02.03.09

The Best Of Flipside Video Vol. 1

BAD RELIGION, CIRCLE JERKS, DICKIES, WEIRDOS- (FLIPSIDE/MVD) It was the day it was a real treat to see punk bands on video as so few existed. These days a lot of the old stuff has come out on dvd and the quality is usually better than average. The Flipside tapes were always cool and they always had your fave punk bands. Here are 4 of the most popular punk bands from LA. doing some of their best work from the mid-80's and the quality is ok, not great but not awful or anything. Of the bands I always enjoyed seeing the Dickies the most, their shows were always a blast with vocals bringing you a different prop for every song. The Weirdos, of course, do "We Got the Neutrons" and "Solitary Confinement" (plus 8 others). And it was cool to see Greg Hetson playing guitar for Circle Jerks AND Bad Religion but I have seen better live footage of both bands. Worth the price not an essential purchase unless you are a collector of one or all of these bands www.mvdvisual.com



02.03.09

The House Of The Rising Punk

(ABC)- Judging by the lame name of this one I thought it was gonna be weak, however, is not. On the contrary, this is one of the better documentaries of the late 70's NYC scene in a long while. (PUNK ATTITUDE by Don Letts is good too but doesn't focus only on NYC). There is a lot of footage on CBGB here and interviews w/ folks like Tom Verlaine, Richard Hell and Patti Smith (Richard tells a great story of the time he and Tom took off from their high school and went to NYC for the first time). Hunt this one down and drop down your hard shackles for it.



02.03.09

Love

LOVE STORY(START UK)- Wow, this is one of the best documentaries I have ever seen and if you are a huge fan of Love (like I am) or even an occasional fan of the band then by all means purchase this as it is essential. They have more interviews with most of the players in Love. Arthur's interviews look to be from the 2000's (a few years before he died) and Bryan MacLean's looks to be from the 1990's just before his death (MacLean died Christmas day in 1998). There is also a current interview with Johnny Echols (who is very soft spoken and articulate), Alban Snelson Pfisterer (who mentioned how he was always "the odd man out"), Michael Stuart plus Elton John records boss Jac Holzman, Doors drummer John Densmore and plenty of others. There is also some older live footage as well as some of the recent tours Arthur did with the Baby Love guys as has backing band. As interesting (and poignant) as any rock docu you will ever

www.startproductions.co.uk



10.10.08

Iggy & The Stooges

ESCAPED MANIACS- (MVD)- I've seen a few recent Iggy & the Stooges (dvd and otherwise) that didn't really do a whole lot for me, like Iggy was through the motions or something (then again, at 60 years old I'll give the break). For some reason this one is different, like the whole band is poss (yes, even Mike Watt) as they tear through a set in Belgium in the summer. It all sounds pretty choice but Ron Asheton's guitar sound especially mer it was brought forth in a time machine from 1969 and not one thing has changed, except is nearly 40 years older. Oh, and his caveman brother, Scott, on the drums is hitting the like he's never been more pissed in his life, like the day Iggy's dad gave him a detention to hear mind benders like the opener "Loose", "1969", "I Wanna be Your Dog", "TV Eye" and plenty of others. Would have loved to hear "Search & Destroy" but only 'cos that's the greatest songs evah (and James Williamson was nowhere to be found). Disc two has a retrospective plus an interview with him (underneath some palm trees, maybe from his backyard??) with Esther Friedman. Don't be afraid there punko, dive in.....this one is worth it www.mvdvisual.com



10.10.08

The Meatmen

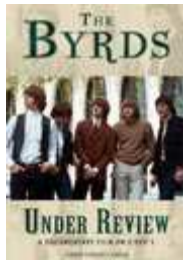
THE DEVIL'S IN THE DETAILS: VOL 1 (MVD)- Tesco, oh Tesco, where been? I did an interview with him in the late 80's in an early issue of DAG he was absolutely hilarious. It seems like the guy had vanished for years resurface a few years ago when The Meatmen and Negative Approach performed in Detroit that seemed to be out of nowhere (from my left coast vantage point anyway). This new dvd includes like three hours of video clips from the late 80's to the present and has all of his outrageous and some occasionally ridiculous jokes, prank and, ...oh yeah, music too. I'm glad it has some footage from the late 80's Meatmen (the Records era) as that is my fave. The early h/c stuff, while funny, didn't do a whole lot for musically but as far as some of the other footage, he gets a whole ton of people to say "for President" on here (he'd get my vote). There is also an interview from a local Washin station from the 1980's with Tesco showing the host all of his weird toys and describing (Tesco sounds like he might be only 2nd to Glenn Danzig in oddball toys). And the song those glorious songs, you get to hear "Abba, God and Me", "Pillar of Sodom", "War of the Superbikes" and plenty more. As Tesco says, "Buy or fry Weeniebags!" www.mvdvisual.com



10.10.08

Punk's Not Dead

(MVD)- This is an interesting documentary that traces the roots of punk from the late 70's up until the present and there is no lack of classic talking heads here from Ian Mackaye to Mike Ness to Brian Baker to Jay Bentley to the NOFX to guys in UK bands like The Subhumans, The Damned, The Exploited (the subtitles for Wattie's thick Scottish accent), UK Subs (a funny piece of statesmen Charlie Harper) to present bands like Sum 41, Good Charlotte, Chemical Romance, The Used and the folks behind the Warped Tour many more. Director Dynner (who apparently once caught a Washington Redskins game with Ian Mackaye... it was in the Billy Kilmer or Joe Theismann era???) wonders what is punk? Are these new like Sum 41 or Good Charlotte punk (me says no)? She asks some of the older bands what purpose these newer bands hold. There is also some (unintentionally) hilarious footage of the 70's tv shows like CHIPS and QUINCY on how punk rock is ruining today's youth scene from CHIPS where the blonde haired cop, not Erik Estrada, starts bouncing himself lockers with a crazed look on his face, trying to imitate what the punks do, was an absolute scream). From the title and the cover photo I thought this was going to be some generic but trust me when I say it's not. This is well worth watching. www.mvdvisual.com



07.18.08

The Byrds

UNDER REVIEW-SEXY INTELLECTUAL- (MVD)- MVD has released a lot of UNDER REVIEW dvds and some have been really good (The Smiths) and some (Leonard Cohen) have been, well, a bit on the boring side. This is definitely the better ones because A) I love The Byrds and B) you get to hear interesting chatter from some folks in the Byrds camp, namely writers like Johnny Rollins, Rolling Stone guy Anthony DeCurtis, country guitarist Vern Gossain and other members John York (who is in this a lot) and Gene Parsons. There is also brief chat from Hillman and David Crosby. Any documentary that has this much good info is bound to be good but you do get to hear some juicy anecdotes such as the fact that Gene Parsons not go to Africa with the band. It wasn't because he opposed Apartheid but he wanted to stay in England and party more with the Stones (I think he may have even outdone Keef in the partying). John York had a good one about the band showing up in Nashville and wanting to meet executives only to be turned away for being, umm... basically dirty, smelly rockers. It also includes plenty of live footage from all eras of the band, including live and studio clips of the band's classics like "Mr. Tambourine Man", "Eight Miles High", "Mr. Spaceman:" and plenty of other Byrds fanatics probably already have this but even casual fans will enjoy this one as at 2 hours there's plenty to chew on. www.mvdvisual.com



07.18.08

Channel 3

ONE MORE FOR ALL MY TRUE FRIENDS (TKO)- I always really thought of the plethora of So. Cal. hardcore bands from the early 80's that these were one of the more underrated ones. This 2-disc set (one dvd documentary and one from a live set in late 2006) documents the friendship of the band's two main members, Mike Magrann and Kimm Gardner who initially became friends in high school then started bands in high school in the late 70's and things went on. Along the way we hear from other band members including bassist Larry Kelley and ear Mike Burton as they discuss early hijinks (trashing hotel rooms) to band problems (the band's (mostly) metal in the late 80's and alienating a lot of their fans) to even more serious topics (Magrann, who is half Japanese, talks about his relatives being sent to internment camps which was the basis for the song "Manzanar"). The best thing about the dvd is realizing that they made some great music, especially in the early years, and the strong bond of friendship to this day between Magrann and Gardner. You even get to hear some remarks from the label head, Robbie "Posh Boy" Fields (though you never see his face) as the band member tells the story about the time he came over and listened to them play while sitting on the lawnmower in the garage. The opening liner notes (written by either Magrann or Gardner) ask whether they, out of countless other punk bands, deserve a film? My answer is undoubtedly resounding yes. www.tkorecords.com



07.18.08

T.S.O.L.

THE EARLY YEARS LIVE- (MVD)- Speaking of So. Cal. punk bands who name for themselves (and too, later went metal), T.S.O.L., also on the P.O. label, were definitely one of them. Apparently back in the day none of the bands from the Los Angeles area drew more kids to the gigs (or had more bloodshed) than they as their were from what I've heard, extremely violent). This dvd, unfortunately, the footage from 2 different gigs from 1983 wasn't exactly what I was hoping for. The footage here is ok, but I dunno...I was hoping for something....more. The FLIPSIDE footage is definitely the better of the two, this shows the band doing an outdoor gig and it shows the beginning of their experimental phase where they began using keyboards (check out the underrated BENEATH THE SHADOWS record) while vocalist Jack Grisham dances around and was dressed like a freaky gypsy or something. The one thing about these guys that set them apart from a good part of the rest of the punk scene was that they could play. These guys truly had talent, no 3-chord simpletons in this band (including terrific guitarist Ron Emory). The quality (FLIPSIDE) footage isn't bad considering it's over two decades old while the other foota

stuff from TARGET was only a few songs and was just ok. You do get to hear hits like “Government/Silent Majority”, “Superficial Love” and, of course, “Code Blue.” The bonus also includes the band doing a version of “Abolish Government/Silent Majority” from L.A. and it still sounds great (even while Jack stops the song in the middle to berate a young diver, then starts the song up again from the middle) and a fairly boring band interview. It isn’t bad and is definitely worth watching, as I said, I was just hoping for more. www.mvc



03.07.08

D.O.A.**SMASH THE STATE: THE RAW, ORIGINAL D.O.A. 1978-81-** (SUDDEN

DEATH) If you ever wondered just how smokin’ of a live band that D.O.A. could be then here is your chance to catch them in all of their white hot glory. I did D.O.A. for the first time until the Summer of 1985 (on the LET’S WRECK PARTY tour) and while they were good I had heard stories about how I should “seen them when.” This dvd has plenty o’ footage with the classic Joey S (vocals/guitar) Randy Rampage (bass) , Dave Gregg (guitar) and the youngster, Chuck drums (Biscuits later went on to play with Black Flag, Social Distortion, Danzig and a few others). For some reason San Francisco seemed to be a big destination for them as all this footage is from there (On Broadway in 1980, Old Waldorf from 1981, 10th St Hall from a Bay Area mystery concert from 1981 as well). You’ll get to hear some raging versions cuts like “The Enemy”, “New Age”, “No Way Out”, “World War 3” and plenty of others. There are even some grainy backstage footage with our heroes hangin’ with the Circle Jerks and 7 (you can’t really see much) and a cool version of “World War 3” from a television station while a small bit of the footage on here is sketchy most of it is truly classic and well worth www.suddendead.com



03.07.08

The Smiths**INSIDE THE SMITHS WITH MIKE JOYCE AND ANDY ROURKE (MVD)**


what you hear about the Smiths is from the perspective of either Morrissey or Johnny Marr (or someone writing about Mozzer or Marr) but this dvd is a different. Its interview subjects are the nearly forgotten rhythm section of the Smiths, drummer Mike Joyce and bassist Andy Rourke. Although in recent years Joyce and Rourke successfully sued their old boss for royalty money this doesn’t go into any of that. Instead, the interviews with the two are from the beginning to the end and everything in between. They both talk about how they met each other and how they met Morrissey and Marr, what the early practices were like, how they took the train down to London and walked up to the head of Rough Trade Records, Geoff Travis, and said “You have to release it!” He did and he did. Rourke tells the story about getting addicted to heroin, getting tossed out of the band and then being let back into the band after he cleaned up. One fun anecdote is when Rourke is sitting with New Order’s Peter Hook and Hook tells the story about watching the evening news with his mum and seeing Andy Rourke on it getting busted. His mum shouted to the tv set “Oooh...he must be a terrible young man!” while her son Pete told her “he is mum”, laughing all the while telling the story to Andy. You hear other quips from Morrissey, Smith, Pete Shelley, Ricky Wilson, and Mat Osman and others. The first time watching it I thought it was ho-hum but each successive time has become more and more intriguing and truly get a sense of just how special of a band The Smiths were. The extras are as long as the main feature and one of the cool extra features is an interview with the “5th Smith”, guitarist Gannon. www.mvdvisual.com



03.07.08

Tad**BUSTED CIRCUITS AND RINGING EARS-** (MVD)-

Of all the potential subjects for a dvd treatment on the Seattle grunge scene I didn’t think that Tad would be at the top of the list but the folks behind this did a damn good job with it. The subject is handled with the right amount of humor and tension, the latter stemming from the band’s lawsuits, inner-band turmoil and death of a friend (Kurt Cobain). From the

 Sub Pop owners, Bruce Pavitt and Jonathan Poneman came the idea of the picture of a demented, 300 lb lumberjack (butcher, actually) from the wilds of the No And it worked. All of the press the band received, especially that in the UK had pictures guys with flannels, chain saws, goggles and the like. It also helped in photos that Tad his very large man, would have a twisted smile and an occasional bowie knife in his hands (cover of the band's terrific debut lp, GOD'S BALLS). There's plenty of fantastic live footage shows just how heavy the band could be both literally and figuratively Along the way you hear commentary from Tad himself as well as his bassist Kurt Danielson and drummer (whose words occasionally seemed bittersweet and occasionally downright sad) as well as assorted members of Mudhoney, Soundgarden, Zeke, Nirvana and a few others offering take on what a live Tad show could be like and the constant state of flux of the Seattle in general. You also hear tales of getting dropped by record labels as well as lawsuits, one and one from a couple that the band used on the cover of their 3rd record, 8 WAY SAN (apparently born again Christians). While now being older, wiser and calmer, you get a series of interviews of 4 guys who at the time were having a blast and wanted to ride it as long as they could. www.mvdvisual.com



02.04.08

Dinosaur Jr

LIVE IN THE MIDDLE EAST- (IMAGE ENTERTAINMENT)- Of all of the bands who made comebacks in these last few years (Mission of Burma, Pixies, etc), this is the one I was the most excited about. I have always loved the first two records (with the original lineup) but as much as I loved the records the two I caught by them back in 1987 (Trenton, NJ and New Brunswick, NJ) were disasters. Both sets got cut short and at both places (especially New Brunswick) the sound was a complete mud bog. When Dino Jr. played here last year at the Crystal Ballroom the sound was great and the band was smokin'. This concert dvd, filmed mostly at Boston's East, shows the band in fine form. We all know that vocalist/guitarist J. Mascis is an amazing guitar player and bassist Lou Barlow pounds the strings on his instrument but the biggest highlight of the reunion is drummer Murph. I don't even remember him being that good of a drummer during these gigs he is a total machine. We're treated to early classics like "Kracked", "Freak Scene", "Freak Scene", "Little Fury Things" and other plus 2 covers (The Cure's "Just Like Heaven" and old Boston h/c band Last Rite "Chunks"). Essential. www.image-entertainment.com



02.04.08

Nick Drake

UNDER REVIEW- (MVD)- Mostly enjoyable 90 minute dvd on the late Mr Drake, a musician who has gotten way more acclaim since his death than he received while he was alive (Drake died in 1974 at age 26). The thing is that this is only ever one interview with him (and that interviewer, Jerry Gilbert, speaks here), no live footage or videos so all we are left with are his 3 records (4 count the outtakes record) and a whole bunch of mystery. We are treated to interviews with a few Fairport Convention guys (Ashley Hutchings and Dave Mattacks), Ralph McTell, both Nick biographers (Trevor Dann and Patrick Humphries), Incredible String Band member Robin Williamson and a few others lesser known types. It is interesting to hear people who actually knew Drake speak about him but again, I wish they would (could) have some old footage of him playing live (which he rarely ever did) or being interviewed. Still UNDER REVIEW is definitely worthy of your time. www.mvdvisual.com



02.04.08

Bob Mould

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS- (MVD)- Wow, good to see Bob Mould continue to do himself. My personal favorite part of his catalog is the Husker Du stuff, mainly because that is when I first started listening to his songs. Never cared much for Sugar when they were around (I was probably still angry at the Huskers but got into their stuff later. However, for folks who have liked everything

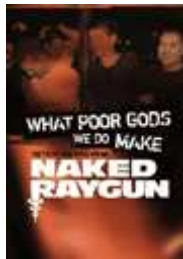
has done and always wanted a smattering of each well then your wait is over. This gig, filmed at Washington, DC's legendary 9:30 Club (a place I still have yet to set foot in) in 2005 shows a recharged Mould with a terrific band Fugazi's Brendan Canty on drums, J Narducy on bass and Richard Morel on keys) charging through 23 songs from his back catalogue. Starting off with three songs from Sugar's Copper Blue and right into a few from the solo Mould Song . Elsewhere Moulds reaches far back and beyond in recreating a classic from Wolf ("See a Little Light") and several from his legendary first band, Husker Du ("Celebrated "I Apologize", etc.). At this point in his career Mould (in the best shape of his life) doesn't seem content to play his acoustic guitar in coffeehouses. On the contrary, the way he jumps around during this set you wonder when he is going to break out the Flying V. www.mvdvisual.com



01.27.08

Donovan

THE DONOVAN CONCERT: LIVE IN LA- (MVD)- Glad to see Mr. Donovan out there making people smile.. Apparently at some point he became good friends with David Lynch as this gig is a benefit for the David Lynch Foundation for Consciousness-Based Education and World Peace (a program which funds Transcendental Meditation for at-risk youth.....very cool if you ask me!). This gig was from 1/21/07 at the Kodak Theatre in L.A. and it's just Donovan playing acoustic guitar but he still sounds inspired and lively. All of the hits are played ("Sunshine Superman:", "Mellow Yellow", "Hurdy Gurdy Man", etc.) and we even see surprise appearances by Beach Boy Mike Love and Donovan's daughter, Astrella Celeste. I wouldn't call this essential viewing or anything but it's well done and a pleasant evening out (lots of smiles from the hand clapping during favorite songs) and if you're a Donovan fanatic then you don't want to miss it. www.mvdvisual.com



01.27.08

Naked Raygun

WHAT POOR GODS WE DO MAKE: THE STORY AND MUSIC BEHIND NAKED RAYGUN- (RIOT FEST)- Ah.....my beloved Naked Raygun. Always a pleasure to see anything on these guys but when I heard they had reformed and were touring some west coast gigs, well, that was icing on the cake. This is a terrific documentary which coincided with their headlining the Riot Fest in Chicago last year. It has lots of great live footage and plenty of interviews. A few of the most nostalgic about Raygun include their old buddies Steve Albini, John Kezdy (The Electric Blue) Jake Burns (Stiff Little Fingers), as well as some Chicago area writers like Greg Kot and Derogatis. It's interesting to find out in interviews just how many lineups the band went through and how many different types of sounds the band went through (I guess real early on, when Jeff Pezzati's brother Mark who started the band was the vocalist , they were quite experimental). At one point Albini tells that real early on Jeff Pezzati had a pompadour before his brother got a haircut. The four (final lineup) members of N.R. all tell some great band stories. Spicer, who not only is the tannest human being on earth, is funny as all hell) and I only wish I would have heard from some of the ex members of N.R., namely longtime guitarist John Marko Pezzati, etc. The dvd has plenty of extras and it also comes with a cd that includes songs from late 2006 and at \$20 this is a steal. Even if you have a passing interest in Naked Raygun (or the city of Chicago) then this is absolutely essential. www.nakedraygun.org



01.27.08

Ramones

IT'S ALIVE: 1974-2006- (RHINO)- Both END OF THE CENTURY:THE SILENCE AND THE RAMONES and RAW (both released in the last few years) are great documentaries (especially the former) but if you're looking for the holy motherlode of live Ramones then look no further as this hot-pink cased, 2-dvd set (119 songs!) is it. It's chronological and from some of the early b/w footage from CBGB'S , Manhattan City and My Father's Place show the band slowly getting their look/sound so it was there from the beginning but the first footage from Sept of 1974 the band was in their early stages but by the next batch of footage, from April 1976, they were there). In addition to

NYC haunts there's several appearances on the UK tv show The Old Grey Whistle Test on Top of the Pops too) plus Don Kirshner's Rock Concert (remember that show ??? I'd shown on here announcing the band in a hot pink shirt unbuttoned part of the way down chains n' chest hair) and a ton of songs each from The Rainbow in London (where the LP came from), the US Festival (in front of what looks like hundreds of thousands), the San Francisco Civic Center (on a beautiful day), on the tv show Sha Na Na (Bowser in them...heck, he looks like he could have been a Ramone!) and the dvd-ending concert in Buenos Aires, Argentina in front of what looks like a million people. No extras or spec but you don't need them. Flippin' great! www.rhino.com



01.21.08

Cro-Mags

THE FINAL QUARREL: LIVE AT CBGB 2001- (MVD)- These guys seem the rage back in the late 80's in the northeast (this is when their debut re OF QUARREL, came out and I was still living in NJ) but I never got into that of crunch-metal-punk. At these time bands like these guys, Agnostic Front (gone more metal than punk), The Crumbsuckers, Murphy's Law and the like seemed to be going for the hardest sound they could find (or at least the one on their faces made it look like that). As the title implies, this is the Cro Mags last gig, at the haven, CBGB's. Leader/bassist Harley Davidson is the focal point here (and it featured prominently in the extras including footage with him and his son and Harley giving a tour of CBGB's). Definitely not my favorite band out there but for fans this will quench that thirst that I know you have. BONUS MATERIAL: A slide show, a full set from Harley's new band Harley's War, Harley giving a tour of CBGB and footage of Harley and his son jamming. www.mvdb2b.com



01.21.08

Pet Shop Boys

CUBISM IN CONCERT 11-14-06 MEXICO CITY- (RHINO)- Had you told me in my punk rock days that I'd become a Pet Shop Boys fan I would have your face. Well, when I interviewed St. Etienne in the mid-late 90's Bob Stanley told me he was a big PSB's fan (he told me his biggest influences were the Pet Shop Boys) so I figured if it's good enough for Bob Stanley (Mr. Caffeine to you) then it's good enough for me. My wife and I even caught them live in San Francisco in the late 90's and they put on a great show. This show was on the tour for 2 FUNDAMENTAL but the songs during this concert spanned their career and you get to hear classics like "West End Girls", "Opportunities (let's make lots of money)" and "It's a Sin" plus recent tunes like "Psychological", "I'm with Stupid" and "Minimal." The whole thing is a spectacle with costume changes, choreographed dance moves and plenty of computerized fun as only PSB can do. I feel this band has never gotten their fair shake but hey, if you want to be entertained, CUBISM IN CONCERT will entertain you. BONUS MATERIAL: a photo gallery, 8-minute behind the scenes filmed in Mexico and audio commentary from the band. www.wmg.com



01.21.08

Johnny Thunders

WHO'S BEEN TALKING: IN CONCERT- (MVD)- I gotta admit I was never a New York Dolls fan and I liked the Heartbreakers even less. Johnny Thunders was a guitarist for both bands and while a fine guitarist, I think the guy was overrated (a chance to see him once in Philly at Revival in about 1987 and blew it off even show up?). This is a concert from Japan probably right before his death. On stage with him he had a dancing girl/backup singer plus a honking sax player. While he does play "Chinese Rocks" (his signature tune) he does play "In Cold Blood", "Crisis", "Gloria", plus his usual surf tunes; "Pipeline" and "Wipeout." After watching him perform I believe he probably wasn't overrated, in fact, he may have been a bit underrated. The guy is a fairly amazing guitar player (in the scarf wearin'/face makin'/struttin' across the stage type). It's a shame that he's known these days as a punchline to a heroin joke than he is

guitar player but we all make our own beds. WHO'S BEEN TALKING is definitely worth out. www.mvdb2b.com



09.03.07

The Jesus Lizard

LIVE- (MVD)- While I must admit that I was always partial to Scratch Acid (David Yow's band prior to Jesus Lizard) that is not to say that I didn't dig I did indeed dig their stuff and I remember seeing them at least once perform live in Philly (most likely The Khyber). I did like seeing J.L. live 'cos first bassist David Wm. Sims staring you down from the stage (just like he used to do with Scratch Acid) and David Yow just being a complete freak. The gig on this dvd is from October of 1994 from a club in Boston, Venus de Milo (well, the press release says but from the stage Yow says "Hello Cambridge"ok, story time: one time in the late 80s hanging out with some friends in Somerville, MA and I made the genius comment of "It's not supposed to be here in Boston" on when a friend of a friend, not a very friendly one, looks at me with a stare and says , in that Bah'stan accent, "You're not in Boston, you're in Somerville!"). In this dvd the camera shots are all good as is the sound and at one point Yow gets the crowd's attention and dives right in. The band tackles "Gladiator", "Mouthbreather", "Horse", "Mailroom", and plenty of others. Plus as a bonus there is 5 additional tracks recorded in NYC at CBGB's in the Summer of 1992 (including "My Own Urine", "Monkey Trick", "Wheelchair Epidemic", etc) www.mvdvisual.com



09.03.07

Lene Lovich

LIVE FROM NEW YORK AT STUDIO 54- (MVD)- While I own a handful of Lene Lovich records I must say that I hardly ever listen to them (though I was a bit of a pig in poop when I got the "New Toy" 12" back in the early 80's). This show is from December 4th, 1981, captures Lovich and her band (which includes, yep, Thomas Dolby on synth) in the Big Apple.....btu strangely enough, it's not from the Mudd Club or Danceteria or even CBGB's but from the legendary hedonistic disco that was Studio 54 (where was Warhol? Bianca? Cher?). This is classic new wave excess from both the band and the fans. I remember the early 80's very well and I was a new wave loser. Lene comes out dressed to the nines (as my pal Tony used to say) and she looks like part UK hipster (thought she was actually born in the USA, in Detroit) and part avant-garde (with that hair !) and out comes that famous hiccup of a voice. With Dolby looking every bit the scientist that he is (or was) and the other band members looking oh so new wave they play "Details", "Lucky Number", "Rocky Road", and , of course, "New Toy." I won't say that this show enticed me into tossing a Lene record on the turntable but I must say, I did enjoy watching a minute of it. www.mvdvisual.com



09.03.07

The Queers

ARE HERE- (MVD)- Hard to believe that The Queers have been around for 15 years and to commemorate it Joe and Co. have released this dvd. If you've never heard this New Hampshire institution take two parts Ramones and add some of the Screeching Weasel and Mr. T Experience and yes, you have what we call punk. All the hits are played: " I Spent the Rent", "Fagtown", "Tamara is a Punk", "Brush Your Teeth", " I Only Drink Bud", and , of course, the smash single "The Attitude Fucker." It has live clips from 1993 up to 2005 as well as videos and some animated videos . I only have one problem: it didn't play in my dvd player and the odd thing is this is the 2nd copy they have sent me. The first one was scratched and skipped all the time. The only thing I can do is bring it over a friends house and see if it plays over there. If you really do wanna see it.www.mvdvisual.com