

DVD reviews

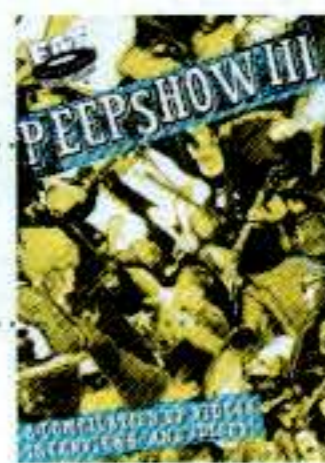
DVD'S COURTESY OF A-F, POLYVINYL AND FAT WRECK CHORDS.

■ **Anti-Flag *Death of a Nation*** - The visual compliment to Anti-Flag's latest rallying cry, *The Terror State*, this mostly live DVD shows just how devoted these Pittsburgh politico-punkers are to spreading their anti-Bush/capitalism/war message. The live footage is spread over their most recent North American tour, so we get to see the band deliver their positive, rockin' punk in a variety of venues. The live sets come courtesy of colorful, professionally filmed footage and capture a variety of different tunes, including the bulk of their latest album. Like most live bands of this ilk, a lot of the tighter, punchier numbers sound muddy and distorted, but mid-tempo rockers like "Post-War Breakout" (a Woody Guthrie cover) and DVD namesake, "Death of a Nation," get some added punch. Is it just me though, or do co-singers Justin Sane and Chris #2 sound better on CD? For the most part, #2 screams way too much and Justin's pitch-perfect snotty snarl gets lost in the live mix. Also, nobody needs to see drummer Pat Thetic wagging his tongue at the camera. But these are minor complaints. The DVD also includes Anti-Flag's song videos, links to political organizations, and one of the coolest title screens I've seen on a music DVD. *A-F Records, PO Box 71266, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 - www.a-frecords.com* - Jason Schreurs

■ **Mates of State *Two of Us*** - Just when married musicians Jason Hammel and Kori Gardner's drum/organ setup and aw-shucks cuteness was starting to feel tired, last fall Mates of State released the stunning, reinvigorated *All Day EP* and this coinciding documentary, which follows the couple for two years as they tour everywhere from Toronto to Tokyo and record their third album, *Team Boo*. You'll see the couple rattle off a funny "list of things not to say to a band" after a show, get help from a stranger when their van breaks down, and reflect on their first two albums and on shelving their careers to pursue music full-time. The cryptic insider language used by so many couples is in full effect, making the band's opaque lyrics make perfect sense at last. The music, as always, is all ruddy bursts of drumming behind plunking, cosmic organ and those swooning, off-kilter choruses chocked full of harmonies. Gardner, half-kidding, calls their music "neo-prog-pop."

The film's most memorable part is the couple's brainstorming session to name the album, resulting in a hilarious ongoing sight gag. Extras include a superfluous featurette called "Inside Team Boo," playfully low-budget videos for "Fluke" and "Ha Ha," and a fun photo gallery. *Polyvinyl Records - www.polyvinylrecords.com* - Doug Wallen

■ **Peepshow III *A Compilation of Videos, Interviews, and Idiocy!*** - Peepshow III is the latest installment of music videos and asinine footage from one of the most prolific hardcore punk labels today. Fat Wreck Chords proudly shows off their diversified talent on this DVD which contains videos from 16 different bands, ranging from the hardcore innovators Sick of It All to the up-and-coming The Lawrence Arms. Of course, it also has videos from all the Fat Wreck Chord regulars, including Mad Caddies, Strung Out, Rise Against, No Use for a Name, None More Black, and Avail, to name a few. It doesn't end there, however; also included on the DVD in between the videos are behind-the-scenes footage, interviews, and home movie clips you wouldn't expect to find anywhere else. See Anti-Flag goofing off in their hotel room, or what Lagwagon does to kill time. Overall, the DVD and its contents are exceptional but more special features would benefit and help push it over the top. Oh, don't fret; a NOFX video is included as well. Peepshow III is perfect for a few simple laughs and music videos you won't be catching on MTV, or MTV 2 for that matter. *Fat Wreck Chords, PO Box 193690, San Francisco, CA 94119-3690 - www.fatwreck.com* - Jersey Jef



VIDEO game reviews

NEW VIDEO GAME RELEASES BY STEVE MACKAY.

■ **Street Vol. 3**

Those who liked the older versions of *NBA Street* will love this. If you're new to the series, get ready for a game that looks and plays amazing. It's easy to jump right into, and most importantly, it's fun. Choose from 25 classic players (including the lil' man, Spudd Webb) and the same array of all-stars. What sets this game apart from Vol. 2 is the create-a-character mode. You build up your ball-er all through the city, getting a higher rep to play on higher courts. Play it enough and the Beastie Boys get some game-play. Too bad it couldn't be *The Fat Boys*. I'd love to see those guys do a Barkley-style gorilla dunk. Overall, this game is a 9/10.

■ **Katamari Damacy**

Anyone with a Playstation 2 and 20 bucks should put down this magazine and buy this game. Seriously. You're a little guy whose father, the king of all creation, destroyed all the stars. Now it's time to make new ones out of trash that you roll up in a ball. Sounds messed up? It is. The soundtrack is catchy, the graphics are very stylized, like Playskool people, and it's downright addictive fun. Most won't play it for less than an hour the first sitting, guaranteed. Play this game, play this game, play this game!

■ **The Punisher**

Okay, the movie wasn't so hot. They changed *The Punisher's* origin to make it more of a revenge story (why isn't he called *The Revenger?*) but, to top it all off, the violence just wasn't there. The video game makes up for it about 100-fold. This is serious blood, gore, and violence in large doses. Players use a drill press to a guy's eye, shove someone in front of a rhino to get gored, and interrogate people using whatever is handy. This game rules! It gets a bit redundant but, since the redundancy includes stabbing mobsters in the eyes with hunting knives, I can dig it. A special note for comic dorks, Garth Ennis wrote the script for the game, and it shows.

