

DVD Debris

BY DAVID FEAR



AWESOME; I FUCKIN' SHOT THAT!

THINKFILM (2005)

October, 2004. Madison Square Garden. The Beastie Boys give 50 of their devoted fans Hi8 cameras. The mission: Film the holy trinity of hip-hop (Whiteguy Division) from the audience's perspective as they drop mad hits like they were Rod Carew. Filmgoers should take their Dramamine before watching—apparently, it's impossible to capture a concert with a steady hand—but trust us, it's worth it. The boys get everybody from Ben Stiller to your grandma body-movin' and as a document of their live act circa now, this is, like, fuckin' awesome. And yo, where can I get those fresh tux shirts?



STRANGERS WITH CANDY: THE COMPLETE SERIES

PARAMOUNT HOME VIDEO (1999)

Like most high school freshman, Jerri Blank worries about popularity, final exams and which cute boy she'll take to the prom. She's also a little anxious about menopausal hot flashes and whether her mandatory piss test will pass her parole officer's scrutiny. Sorry, did we not mention that she's a 46-year-old ex-con and rehabilitated drug addict that's just now finishing her general education? All three seasons of the Comedy Central series can now be yours in one elegant Trapper-Keeper™ box set, which means you can rewatch Amy Sedaris perfect TV's most heinous overbite ad infinitum. Funny, funny stuff, people.



THE BOONDOCKS, SEASON 1

SONY (2005)

Imagine a *Peanuts* special scripted by Richard Pryor, and that gives you a good idea what this Cartoon Network series based on Aaron McGruder's subversive, scathing comic strip is like. Taking on everything from BET's bootycentric programming to the Caucasian race's love of cheese, militant African-American youths Riley and Huey Freeman dissect social issues like surgeons with chainsaws. The episode in which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. comes back and wonders what the fuck happened to contemporary America should have won McGruder & Co. a Peabody. Make way for the prophets of rage, and our favorite new TV show.



THE WHO: TOMMY AND QUADROPHENIA LIVE

RHINO (1989/96)

Okay, so maybe the older Who couldn't hold a candle to the defiant young gods of *Live at Leeds* and these late-period live rock opera shows—*Tommy* from 1989, *Quadrophenia* from 1996—have way too many celebrity guest stars dropping in for cameos. None of that matters when the band, performing what's arguably their two greatest achievements, tear into these tunes like they've got mammoth chips on their middle-aged shoulders. All bassists should be required to study John Entwistle's stellar playing (watch those fingers!) and the ferocious prog breakdown on "Amazing Journey" will reduce the Mars Volta to weeping genuflection.



PJ HARVEY: ON TOUR—PLEASE LEAVE QUIETLY

ISLAND (2006)

Oh, Polly Jean...could we love you any more? This hodgepodge of shows from Harvey's 2004 *Uh Huh Her* tour finds the world's most diminutive 50-foot queenie strutting and fretting on a number of stages, leaving all of them covered in broken guitar strings and blood. Loaded with rare tunes, exquisite

candid moments (ever wonder what Harvey drunk on tequila looks like?) and kick-ass footage, this disc makes us wonder which gods we pleased to deserve this. It may even cure cancer. Actually, we're not sure about that last one, but we can confirm that our schoolboy crush on Her Harveyness remains unabated.



BASTARDS OF YOUNG

IMAGE (2005)

There are a few things proven beyond a shadow of a doubt by this chronicle of today's heart-on-their-sleeve pop-punk bands: A) You can't go wrong by biting an old Replacements song title when naming your music doc (though a more apt moniker might have been *Finding Emo*); B) there is an endless number of groups ready to rip-off At the Drive-In and Dashboard Confessional at the drop of a dime; and C) no matter how much you dig the scene's stalwarts like Thursday or Taking Back Sunday, this whole crowd-singing-along thing is just a little too Jonestown-y for its own good.



DAZED AND CONFUSED

CRITERION (1993)

Finally! Richard Linklater's chronicle of high-schoolers soaking in the spirit of '76 is one of the best—fuck it, the best—movie about the lazy, hazy buzz of youth, and Criterion now gives it the treatment it so royally deserves. This two-disc set includes an appropriately rambling commentary from the director, a making-of doc, a Super-8 production diary, oodles of outtakes...everything you'd want minus a fake joint signed by the cast. And the movie itself still holds up like a cherry '68 Camaro, all quotable lines ("Hey, watch the leather, man!") and deadpan wit about long-gone glory days.



TV PARTY

BRINK/MVD (2005)

A transmission from the underground, Glenn O'Brien's public-access cable show *TV Party* gave New York viewers a glimpse into the hipster no man's land known as the '70s punk scene. As this documentary points out, you might see Blondie trying out a demo version of "The Tide is High," or watch the Clash's Mick Jones trade quips with the Bowery's answer to Johnny Carson. Interviews with the show's participants highlight how crucial this was to the then-burgeoning cultural movement—they wanted the airwaves, and for a brief time, they got 'em—while plentiful clips attest to the charm of cheesy production values.

TELL ME DO YOU MISS ME



RHINO (2006)

After 13 years together, Luna called it quits and Matthew Buzzell's cameras were there to capture the group's final tour. The result is one of the most depressing rock films since Radiohead's *Meeting People is Easy*, in which being in a band means riding in crappy vans and getting on each other's nerves. But like Luna's music, the film's melancholic vibe has such an undeniable gossamer beauty that it makes you sad to think that they're a thing of the past. Not as sad as listening to one of their albums, but still. A must-own for fans and mopesters in general. **F**