

# DVD

## Automatons

### Facets Video

Street: 01.29

The *Mystery Science Theater 3000* fan in me appreciates the concept of this movie. Basically, **James Felix McKenney** wanted to make a science fiction B-movie just like he wished had existed when he was a kid. This includes men in robot suits, bad voice dubbing, dark and grainy film and that eerie 50's soundtrack that you don't just hear, you feel. Not only is the story analogous of current events, but it makes for effective social commentary without being self-gratifying. Since this is such an incredibly well-done homage to 1950s sci-fi movies, my only gripe is that they could have omitted some of the remaining modernities belonging to the main character. My gripe is merely cosmetic, however, and while I found it distracting, it didn't detract from my enjoyment of the overall presentation or production of the film. Not everyone will "get it," but those who do will love this. —*Conor Dow*

## Blood, Boobs & Beast: a Documentary about B-Horror Filmmaker Don Dohler

Videokitchen.TV

Street: Tromadance 08

Blood, Boobs & Beast tells the story of filmmaker Don Dohler, whose forays into sci-fi and horror films are thought by many to be the worst of all time. Still, there are those who think that his filmmaking is pure genius, and this film makes a compelling argument to this end. We are led through a career that started innocently enough, with stabs at film production and underground comic and magazine publishing. Over time, as television stations relied less on midnight movies to drum up viewership, Dohler's projects were relegated more toward the straight-to-video side of film distribution. No longer making films for TV, the director found himself competing with gorier and more sexually charged films for distribution. As such, the mild-mannered filmmaker was made to lean more heavily on the Three B formula of horror film creation: blood, boobs and beasts. We are shown the inner-workings of his latest film shoot, and are introduced to his family and actors as well as a director he routinely uses to bring his visions to life. The film provides a fresh and comical look at just how much work goes into low-budget filmmaking, and how hard Don Dohler is willing to go to make a descent movie. —*James Bennett*

## Calligraphy: The Pigeon Theory

Ruben Eudave

Corleone Connection Productions/  
Studio 411

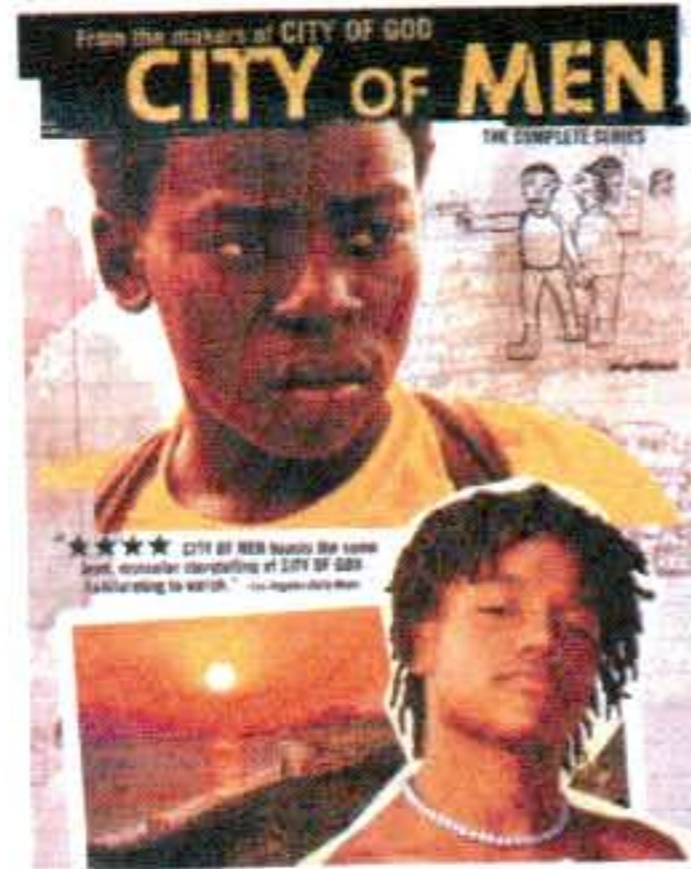
Street: Out Now

This is another rare find among the skateboard community. *Calligraphy: The Pigeon Theory* shows some amazing skating from southern California and Mexico inhabitants who skate some pretty cool spots with some pretty innovative tricks. The filming in some parts is a little shaky, but what's a good skate video without some non-filmer filming? That's what I thought, not a good skate video. Amazing parts from **Brandon Case**, **Felix "Polo" May**, **Shadi Charbel**, and **Brett Nichols** give us a glimpse of what is possible on the seven ply wooden device we call a skateboard. If I had to give this a thumbs up rating, I would give it an elephantitis-infested thumbs up, but luckily I don't. So let's just say it is worth watching while you wait for the winter weather to go away. —*adam dorobiala*

## Cidade Dos Homens (City of Men)

Globo Filmes

Street: 09.26



If you're familiar with the movie this television series is adapted from, *City of God*, you're probably all too eager to get your hands on anything else affiliated with the film directed by **Kátia Lund** and **Fernando Meirelles**. Unfortunately, many of the things that made *City of God* such a great film (i.e. gratuitous sex, drugs, and violence—all framed in a ghetto-wide gang war), are conspicuously absent in the spin-off television series—replaced, at times, by hokey *Telemundo*-type episode concepts. The film's protagonist, Rocket (**Alex Rodriguez**), is replaced in the TV series by **Douglas Silva** (Li'l Dice in *City of God*), and **Darlan Cunha** (Steak

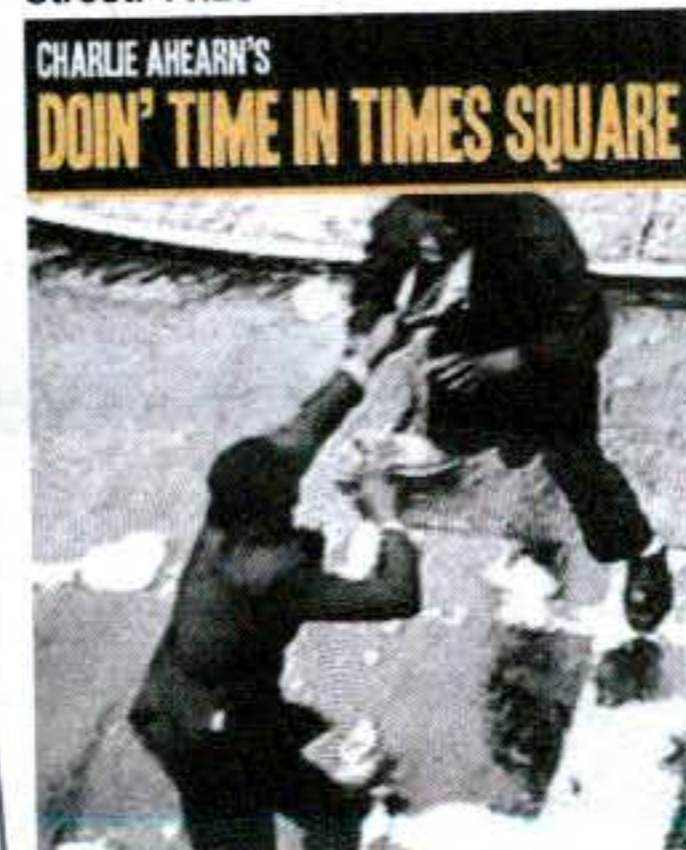
and Fries). The series follows their travails as they grow up in the *favela* (the Brazilian ghetto), but altogether misses the poignancy and unique storytelling structure of *City of God*. This series isn't anywhere near the movie, but it's still better than regular television. —*Makena Walsh*

## Doin' Time in Times Square

Charlie Ahearn

BrinkDVD

Street: 11.20

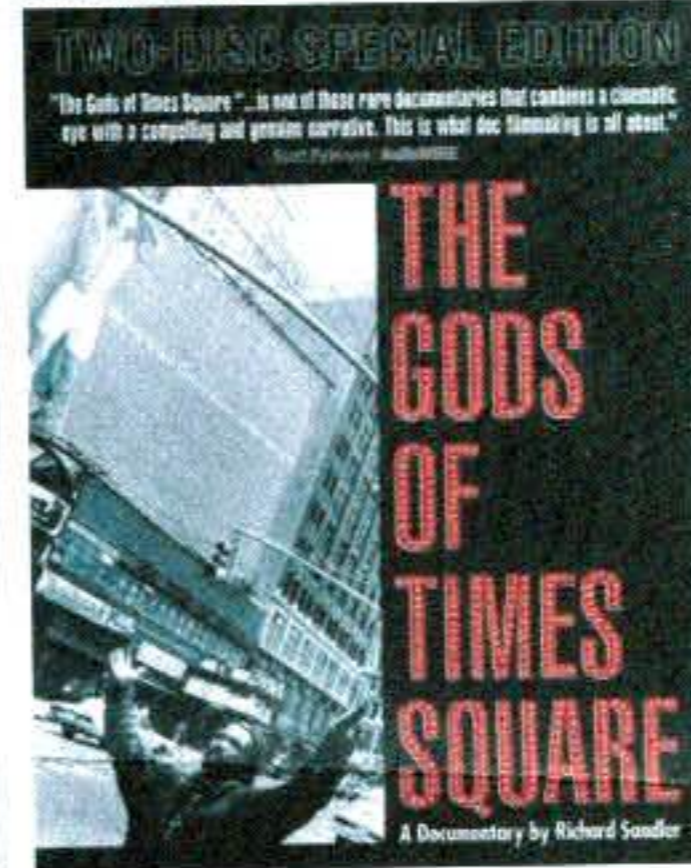


Charlie Ahearn is best known for making what most consider to be the first film on hip-hop culture, *Wild Style*, in 1982. Almost 10 years after making that film, Ahearn decided to create a video journal by pointing his camera outside his apartment in Times Square to capture the surreal sideshow in his backyard. The question this sort of projects begs to be asked is: who cares? Unlike **Tony Conrad's** Bryant Park Moratorium Rally of 1969, which captures a slice of the tension over Vietnam, Ahearn's movie feels and watches more like a bemused home movie. The novelty wears off pretty quickly as we see fights, arrests, some New Year's Eve action, etc. interspersed with some shots of his family. Why release this shit? Who is going to pay money for this? Better left, if you are interested, for youtube. —*Erik Lopez*

## The Gods of Times Square

MVD Visual

Street 12.04



*The Gods of Times Square* is a great film. Recorded over six years in the mid '90s, the film documents the street preachers, doomsday prophets and as-

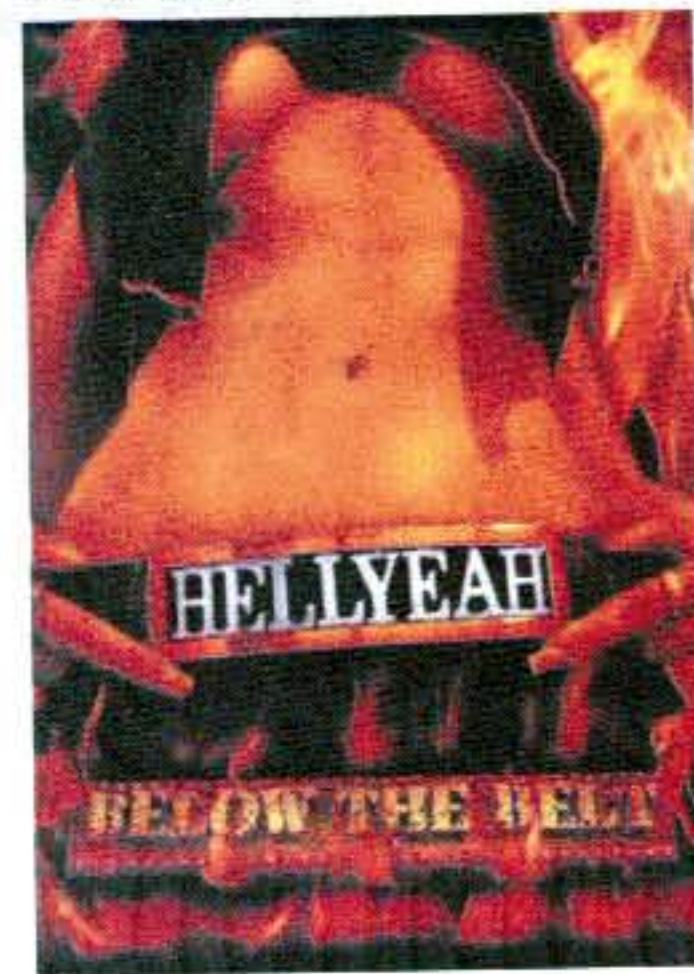
sorted other religious zealots who once populated the Times Square area of New York City. They of course shared the legendary free-speech neighborhood with small shops, prostitutes and strip clubs—a combination which led to one of the grittiest, most culturally unique areas in the city. As mayor, **Rudolph Giuliani** allowed big business to come in and clean it up, leading to the almost complete homogenization of the once diverse quarter. Now, as companies like Disney and Time Warner have cleansed the neighborhood, open religious zealotry has taken a back seat to the artificially sanitized family zone that Times Square has become. This documentary shows how much the process of disneyfication impacted those who called the Square home. We are shown how the street folks functioned before, during and after the neighborhood's sanitation. The DVD also features more in-depth featurettes about several of the more colorful characters that show up in the main film. Overall, this is a fantastic documentary that places the viewer right in the middle of a coarse urban phenomenon. —*James Bennett*

## HellYeah

Below the Belt

Epic Records

Street: 11.03



I think band documentary DVDs are generally a waste of time, especially in the case of HellYeah. With only one album out and a few tours under your belt, how far can you go into the experiences of a band? The DVD goes through the motions with footage of the band recording their debut record, then the release party for the record and the band's first live appearance, which may be somewhat interesting if you're a fan. Then there is pointless drab, featuring the band's crew, making the music video, more tour crap with live footage intermingled with overdub audio. If you're not familiar, HellYeah is a supergroup, kind of, featuring former **Pantera/Damageplan** drummer, **Vinnie Paul**, along with **Tom Maxwell**, guitarist from the now defunct band **Nothingface**, and **Chad Gray**, the vocalist for **Mudvayne**. Basically, you'd have to be a huge fan of the band to get any enjoyment out of the release. But weeding through two hours of dribble is still a bore for anyone. They should have just released a live DVD with extras instead of just the documentary-style crap. —*Bryer Wharton*