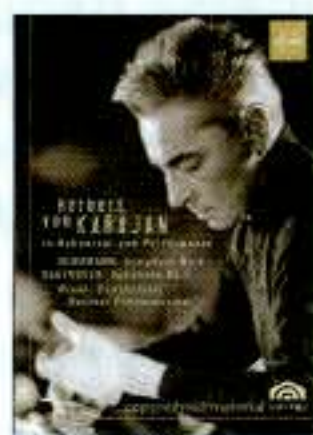


cuts have been made to the Britten score, few will feel shortchanged. Presented in DTS 5.1 and LCPM stereo, DVD extras include a cast gallery and meaningful commentary by Barstow, Randle, Lloyd, and Daniel on "Gloriana at Opera North," "Elizabeth and Essex," "The Idea of the Film," and "Gloriana, a Film." Highly recommended. [Note: also newly available is a 1996 opera feature film of Britten's children's title *Let's Make an Opera*, priced at \$19.99.] Aud: C, P. (J. Reed)

Herbert von Karajan in Rehearsal and Performance ★★★

(1966) 140 min. DVD: \$24.99 (booklet included). EuroArts (dist. by Naxos of America).



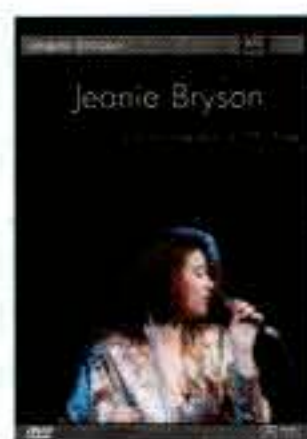
Herbert von Karajan (1908-1989) was a titan among 20th-century conductors, a charismatic man whose direction of both the Berlin Philharmonic and the Salzburg Festival during much of the Cold War period made him one of the era's dominant musical personalities. Even those who disliked the smooth, blended orchestral sound that he cultivated would find it difficult to deny his technical mastery or his influence. *Herbert von Karajan in Rehearsal and Performance* includes two black-and-white programs from a series made for television in the mid-'60s, when the conductor was at the height of his powers. The first finds him rehearsing the Vienna Philharmonic in a 1965 performance of Schumann's Fourth Symphony in preparation for a recording of the work: the camera remains tightly focused on the maestro as he quietly but insistently coaxes the precise emphases he desires out of the players, after which the viewer is treated to a full performance, artfully filmed. The second program from 1966 begins with von Karajan offering advice to an unnamed student conductor who's rehearsing the Berlin Philharmonic in playing Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, followed by a complete performance of the work under the maestro, more conventionally filmed. Presented in PCM stereo, the orchestral sound is frankly mediocre throughout, but what's important here is the footage of a great conductor at work, and while some may find von Karajan's manner studied (he's not being caught off-the-cuff, needless to say), the result is fascinating—and film buffs should take note that both programs were directed by the great French filmmaker Henri-Georges Clouzot. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (F. Swietek)

Jeanie Bryson: Live at Warsaw Jazz Festival ★★

(2006) 70 min. DVD: \$19.95. Music Video Distributors (avail. from most distributors). Color cover.

It's not a great sign when a singer's parentage is more intriguing than her music, but

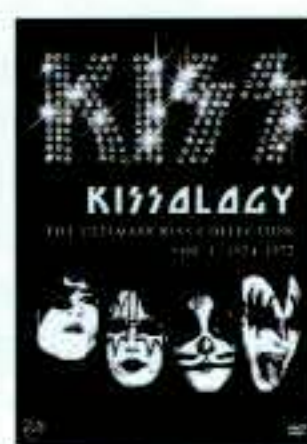
that's the case with Jeanie Bryson—the illegitimate daughter of the late trumpeter and bebop pioneer Dizzy Gillespie and songwriter Connie Bryson. At least judging from this modest 1991 nine-song performance, she didn't inherit



Diz's bravura chops or sense of musical adventure. Opening for trumpeter Freddie Hubbard at the Warsaw Jazz Festival, the singer is competent but uninspiring (the same can be said for her band, led by pianist Ronnie Mathews), cruising through a program that's heavy on standards such as "You'd Be So Nice to Come Home To," "I've Got a Crush on You," "Body and Soul," and "Our Love is Here to Stay." A couple of sambas (including one by Bryson's mother) help pick things up, as does "TV is the Thing This Year," a Dinah Washington chestnut filled with "he turned my dial up" double entendres. But Bryson's failure to really cut loose makes this a tepid affair at best. Featuring a tinny audio track (Dolby Digital 5.1 and stereo options notwithstanding) and analog video that's far from crisp—not to mention an extraneous 24-minute performance by a Latin jazz band (fronted by a singer named Kenia) that comes totally out of left field—this is not a necessary purchase. (S. Graham)

Kiss: Kissology, Volume One 1974-1977 ★★1/2

(2006) 2 discs. 359 min. DVD: \$29.98. VHI Classic Records (avail. from most distributors).

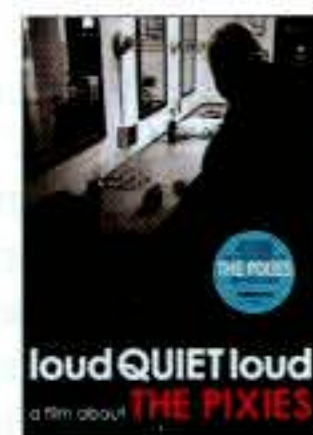


Even if you believe that "too much Kiss" is an oxymoron, this double-disc, six-hour excursion into the archives of the then-hottest band in the land's breakout years of 1974-77 will surely test your metal mettle. And this is just the first (!) of three installments chronicling the history of a band that folks either love with all their hearts or avoid like the plague (there's precious little middle ground with Kiss). Featuring 70-plus songs compiled from four full-length concerts and television appearances ranging from ABC's *In Concert* to a wonderfully weird guest spot on *The Mike Douglas Show*, this is a wildly uneven collection (with much of the video and audio quality bordering on the painful, Dolby Digital 5.1 sound notwithstanding). For the uninitiated, things will start to get pretty boring by about the fifth version of "Firehouse," but devoted fans will fawn over every blood-spitting, chest-baring, fireball-blasting minute of the antics by Gene Simmons, Paul Stanley, Ace Frehley, and Peter Criss. Depending on how you feel about Kiss, you'll be bangin' your head...either enthusiastically or against the wall. For anybody else, this is an exhaustive—and exhausting—package that becomes redundant by about the end of the

first hour. DVD extras include sparse audio commentary by Simmons and Stanley, and a 20-page booklet. Likely to be appreciated only by those faithful who continue to march in the Kiss army, this is an optional purchase. Aud: P. (M. Moore)

loudQUIETloud: A Film About The Pixies

★★★1/2
(2006) 85 min. DVD: \$19.95. Music Video Distributors (avail. from most distributors).



All right, so the sight of lead singer Frank Black laying on a hotel bed in his underwear might be a little too intimate for all but the most rabid fans. But Steven Cantor and Matthew Galkin's documentary *loudQUIETloud*, covering the seminal alternative rock band The Pixies' 2004 reunion tour, is a warts-and-all, up-close-and-personal look at band members Black (who's often referred to by his birth name, Charles), Kim Deal, David Lovering, and Joey Santiago. The filmmakers were granted almost unlimited access during rehearsals, backstage before and after the shows, and on the road. The result is a heartfelt profile of a band that self-destructed in 1992 and reformed 12 years later to battle the same demons (including fame, loneliness, rivalry, and incompatibility) that did them in the first time out. In addition, there's some riveting concert footage, including a shot of Black storming offstage after performing "Something Against You," as drummer Lovering continues to pound the skins. The death of Lovering's father and his subsequent descent into substance abuse, Deal's constant battle against alcoholism, Santiago's struggle to finish a documentary score on the road (including setting up an ersatz studio in the bathroom of his hotel room), and Black's conflicting desires to build a solo career and work with his old band mates are all covered in this funny, informative, almost painfully intimate, and genuinely touching portrait of one of indie rock's most beloved bands. DVD extras include a commentary track featuring the directors and editor Trevor Ristow, deleted scenes, and a booklet. Highly recommended. Aud: P. (M. Moore)

Marvin Gaye: Live in Belgium 1981 ★★1/2

(1981) 60 min. DVD: \$14.98. Universal Music Group (avail. from most distributors).



Marvin Gaye was an artist—not just another well-groomed product of the Motown assembly line, but someone with a vision, and an original voice, who was, sadly, fatally shot by his own father in 1984. By mid-1981, Gaye was living in Ostende, Belgium, where the bulk of this concert was recorded, having reportedly escaped from a