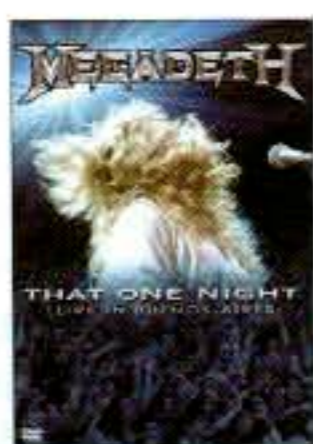


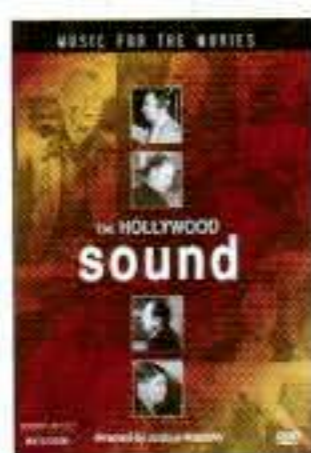
world's best metal band during the filming of this concert hailing from October 2005. And why not? Fueled by the singing, songwriting, and axe-handling virtuosity of frontman Dave Mustaine, Megadeth embodies all the pluses of heavy metal music



and none of the genre's minuses. The musicianship is top-level, and the songs are fast and furious, but Megadeth never lets the music slip into aural mayhem (and Mustaine truly sings the lyrics, rarely dropping into the nasal growl so prized by most metal "singers"). Long story short, Megadeth is a band you can get behind whether you like heavy metal or not. And the pulsing sea of fans do that and more: not just singing along to the words but to the guitar solos as well. Throughout the fast-paced concert—featuring 17 songs, including hits such as "Hangar 18," "A Tout Le Monde," and "Peace Sells"—both the audio (DTS, Dolby Digital 5.1 and stereo) and the visuals are excellent. Although DVD extras are limited to an alternate version of "Symphony of Destruction," this disc serves up more evidence—if more were needed—that Megadeth is a cut above. Highly recommended. Aud: P. (M. Moore)

### Music for the Movies: The Hollywood Sound

★★★  
(1995) 85 min. DVD: \$24.99.  
Kultur International Films.  
ISBN: 0-7697-8455-0.

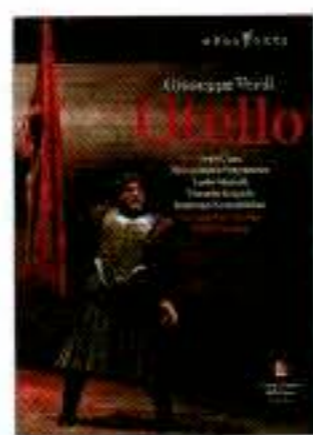


A celebration of the golden age of Hollywood film music from conductor John Mauceri, this 1995 program finds Mauceri conducting the BBC National Symphony of Wales in excerpts from the work of four great film composers active in the 1930s, '40s, and '50s—Max Steiner, Franz Waxman, Erich Wolfgang Korngold, and Alfred Newman. *Music for the Movies: The Hollywood Sound* is not a concert documentary; rather it's part biography, part appreciation, and part explanation of the process of how films were scored during the studio era, illustrated by Mauceri's leading the orchestra in portions of specific soundtracks (Waxman's *The Bride of Frankenstein*, Steiner's *Gone With the Wind*, Korngold's *The Adventures of Robin Hood* and Newman's *The Song of Bernadette* among them) against the backdrop of pertinent scenes being screened in the recording studio. Other composers are touched upon as well—Dimitri Tiomkin rather cursorily in terms of his music for *Red River*, and David Raksin, who discusses his creation of *Laura*'s famous theme. Mauceri is a reliable guide in terms of both performance and commentary, and the program also includes historical footage and stills, excerpts from interviews with players and technicians from the early

decades, and commentary from scholars. Warmly recommended, especially for film music buffs. Aud: C, P. (F. Swietek)

### Otello ★★★1/2

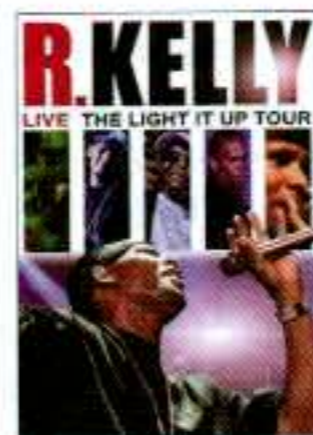
(2006) 2 discs. 151 min. In Italian w/English subtitles. DVD: \$39.99 (booklet included). Opus Arte (dist. by Naxos of America).



Stage director Willy Decker's concept of using a steeply inclined stage and a spare, confining set dominated by an enormous white cross emphasizes the tension and drama of Arrigo Boito's reductive version of Shakespeare's *Othello* as set to Verdi's forcefully lush score. Set in 15th-century Cyprus, the story centers on a trio of characters: Otello the Moor, his Venetian wife Desdemona, and Otello's ensign Iago (here called Jago). Passed over for promotion, the vengeful Jago foments a completely unfounded jealous rage in Otello, who strangles the innocent Desdemona and then, in true operatic—not to mention Shakespearean—tradition, commits suicide. Filmed live at the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona in 2006, this is a visually striking and bold production (including brief, fully-clothed, simulated sex in a ballet sequence) with a handsome cast: Jose Cura as Otello, Krassimira Stoyanova as Desdemona, and Lado Ataneli as Jago, supported by the excellent chorus and symphony orchestra of the Gran Teatre del Liceu. Presented with DTS and LCPM stereo options, DVD extras include an illustrated synopsis and cast gallery. Highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (J. Reed)

### R. Kelly: Live—The Light It Up Tour ★★★1/2

(2007) 110 min. DVD: \$19.99. Image Entertainment (avail. from most distributors).

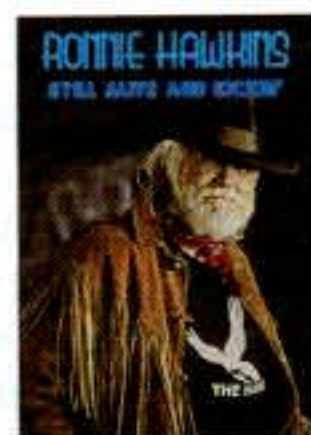


"Oakland make some no-ise!" Thanks to R. Kelly's first DVD release, I'll be hearing that phrase over and over in my mind for weeks. If you can get past Robert Sylvester Kelly's alleged sex with a minor misadventures (Kelly was indicted in 2002, but the case has yet to come to trial), he's not a bad R&B crooner and he's had a remarkable string of hits over the last decade-plus. Unfortunately, "Mr. Showbiz" has a fairly limited repertoire when it comes to subject matter: except for the occasional reference to smokin' weed or gun violence, it's all about sex. More specifically, it's all about sex with Robert (he even manages to make smokin' weed a metaphor for sex in the subtly titled "Sex Weed"). Actually, subtlety—from the lyrics to Kelly's overwrought delivery—is in fairly short supply in this medley-heavy near-two-hour performance that includes "Bump 'N Grind," "Sex Me," "Down Low (Nobody

Has to Know)," "Sex in the Kitchen," "Feelin' on Yo Booty," and the infamous "Trapped in the Closet." If you like R. Kelly, then this generous set from Oakland's Paramount Theatre will be music to your ears. DVD extras include an interview with Kelly and behind-the-scenes footage. Recommended for fans; optional for others. Aud: P. (M. Moore)

### • Ronnie Hawkins: Still Alive and Kickin' ★★★

(2004) 110 min. DVD: \$19.95. Music Video Distributors (avail. from most distributors).



Narrated by Dan Aykroyd, Anne Pick's documentary about rockabilly legend Ronnie Hawkins—an Arkansas native who emigrated to Canada some 40 years ago—covers a particularly tumultuous period in the singer's life, beginning in 2002 when he was diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer, and stretching over the next year and a half, during which he undergoes a mysterious and unexplainable recovery. Obituaries were written, tributes were planned and executed, but someone forgot to tell "the Hawk" that he should be dead. Along with the performance footage of a dozen-plus songs—including Hawkins' hits "Forty Days," "Mary Lou," and "Bo Diddley"—there are various interviews with Hawkins' friends, among them Kris Kristofferson, Robbie Robertson, David Foster, and former President Bill Clinton. At one point Hawkins calls himself "the luckiest hillbilly alive," and it's hard to argue with that. Rockabilly fans are sure to enjoy this life-affirming music documentary, a 2005 Gemini award winner for Best Biography. DVD extras include bonus interview footage. Recommended. Aud: P. (E. Hulse)

### Siouxsie: Dreamshow—Live at the Royal Festival Hall with the Millennium Ensemble ★★

(2005) 143 min. DVD: \$19.98. Rhino Entertainment (avail. from most distributors).



Never have so many been so hard to hear: the fluctuating audio on this recording of Siouxsie and longtime cohort/husband Budgie playing the Royal Festival Hall with a 16-piece ensemble (replete with identical-twin backup singers, rock keyboardist and guitarist, and Taiko drummer) is as messy as Siouxsie's copious eye makeup after about the first half hour. Granted, there are some interesting camera angles that allow you to take in all the fancy visuals and equipment used onstage, but the music just doesn't hold up its end. Siouxsie—whether with the Banshees or the Creatures—never has been all that interesting a singer, and by the fourth or fifth of the 27 songs presented here (including relative hits such as "Christine," "Kiss Them for Me," "Happy House,"