

MUSICALS

Neil Young

**Greendale
Sanctuary / EMI**

You've gotta respect Neil Young: He always follows his heart and his muse — even when they lead him wildly, horrifyingly astray. And that is, we are sad to say, where they've taken him with the clumsy, amateurish and nearly unwatchable pseudo-musical *Greendale*. Shot by Young on video and a miniscule budget, starring a cast of friends and family lip-synching to songs from his most recent CD, and boasting some of the lowest production values since the days of Ed Wood, this folksy environmentalist allegory proves that Young's powerful, uncompromising music doesn't necessarily translate to film. And that Neil might want to think about ignoring his muse now and then.

★1/2 out of ★★★★★

NEW & LIVE

Ween

**Live in Chicago
Sanctuary / EMI**

What could be better than another totally brown live CD from demented musical brothers Deen and Gene Ween, aka Aaron Freeman and Mickey Melchiondo? How about a totally brown live DVD brimming with favourites like *Spinal Meningitis Got Me Down*, *Touch my Tooter*, *Don't Laugh (I Love You)* and *Big Jilm* — along with a surprisingly straight cover of Led Zep's *All of My Love*.

★★★★

Fleetwood Mac

**Live in Boston
Reprise / Warner**

If you saw this PBS special on TV, you already know this gig by the reconstituted Mac (minus Christine McVie) was a pretty solid effort, with surprisingly strong performances and a set list including essentials like *Dreams*,

Now See Hear

Latest & greatest music DVDs

Second Hand News, *Rhiannon*, *Gold Dust Woman*, *Go Your Own Way* and *Don't Stop*. So why wait for the rerun when you can buy it now?

★★★1/2

**KMFDM
WWIII Tour 2003
Sanctuary / EMI**

So much for precision German engineering. This set from Sascha K and his ever-changing industrial-metal outfit is a poorly planned affair, anchored by monotonous live footage and padded out with an overabundance of tour-bus scenes, videos, fan photos, band members' journals and even interviews with roadies. By the time singer Raymond Watts moans, "I'm getting really sick of that camera," you'll know just how he feels.

★★1/2

Hilary Duff

**The Girl Can Rock
Hollywood / Universal**

No, she can't.

★

Supersuckers

**From the Audio/Video
Dept.: Live in Anaheim
Mid-Fi / MVD**

The Supersuckers are classic no-frills rawkers. And we have never seen or heard them play a show that was less than kick-ass. So why they let somebody mess up this perfectly good live DVD by adding cheesy public-TV

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Sterdan

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effects is beyond us. Even so, the boys still rock, the footage covers their best punk and country tracks, there's a bonus live CD and — best of all — Eddie and the 'Suckers crank out a truly smokin' version of OutKast's *Hey Ya!* as a hidden track.

★★★1/2

Lynyrd Skynyrd

**Live: Vicious Cycle Tour
Sanctuary / EMI**

Hey, we dig Lynyrd Skynyrd as much as the next beer-swilling doofus. But here's the thing: When there are almost as many dead former members of your band as there are living ones, it's time to take a hint and call it a day, wouldn't you say?

★★

VINTAGE VIDEO

Cat Stevens

**Majikat: Earth Tour 1976
Eagle Rock / EMI**

Now we understand why Cat Stevens retired from music: After this 1976 tour that included magicians, film projections and a giant, circus-tent set, it was either head for the hills — or head for Vegas. On the plus side, this magnificently refurbished package includes nimble performances of hits like *Moonshadow*, *Another Saturday Night* and *Peace Train*, along with decent extras like BBC TV appearances, videos and interviews.

★★★1/2

U.K. Subs

**Punk Can Take It
MVD / Koch**

It's hard to believe nowadays, but there was a time when punk was subversive. And when bands like The Clash, Sex Pistols and U.K. Subs truly seemed to be at war with English conformity and the status quo. That attitude fuels *Punk Can Take It*, a tongue-in-cheek Subs promo film shot by filmmaker Julien Temple. A parody of British chin-up war documentaries — right down to the plummy-voiced announcer — this 20-minute film intercuts comic vignettes with live footage of the Subs. A little too short but definitely sweet, it's a fine little memento for the old punk in your circle.

★★★

Galaxie 500

**Don't Let Our Youth Go
to Waste: 1987 - 1991
Plexifilm / Sonic Unyon**

If you're not a devotee of this influential and beloved '80s underground outfit, two full DVDs of their dreamy indie-pop might seem like way too much. If, however, you know and love the dark lushness of this trio led by future Luna frontman Dean Wareham, then this compilation of seldom-seen music videos, U.K. TV clips and a plethora of amateur-video live footage should be just right.

★★★★

JAZZ & BLUES

Swing Era

**Various Artists
MVD / Koch**

Long before the dawn of MTV and MuchMusic,

performers filmed "soundies" — performance clips shown in theatres or on old-time film jukeboxes (ask your grandpa). Not surprisingly, this ancient footage is hard to come by these days — which is what makes this *Swing Era* series of DVDs so cool. Each one collects more than an hour of classic footage of the artist in question, be it jump-blues giants like Louis Jordan and Cab Calloway, velvet-voiced crooner Nat King Cole, bandleaders like Duke Ellington or sassy jazzy divas like Sarah Vaughan and Peggy Lee. Obviously, the video is pretty raw and the audio isn't exactly hi-fi. But we'll take it — along with any other volumes in the series we can find.

All: ★★★★★

Peggy Lee

**Fever: The Music of ...
Capitol / EMI**

Sure, you know *Fever*. And maybe you know *Is That All There Is?* But there was a lot more to jazz-pop singer Peggy Lee than just those hits. You'll get the full story on *Fever*, a loving but reasonably informative PBS documentary that combines tons of way-cool archival footage from movies and TV with plenty of recollections from those who knew and loved her. A half-hour of bonus footage — including everything from a *What's My Line?* appearance to a shampoo commercial — ensure you won't be asking if that's all there is.

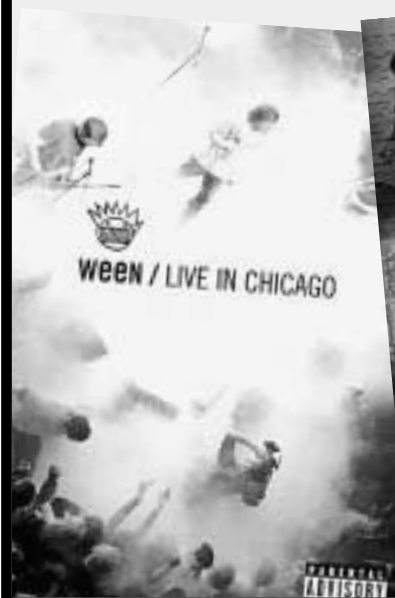
★★★1/2

John Lee Hooker

**Come & See About Me
Eagle Rock / EMI**

Like any blues fan, we love the original hoodoo rhythm devil John Lee. But that is more than we can say for this cobbled-together collection dominated by so-so performance clips from the '80s and '90s.

★★1/2



DISCS

UNDERGROUND



Clinic

Winchester Cathedral
Domino / Outside

Start with the artful alienation of Radiohead. Cut it with the bleep-bloop Dadaism of The Residents and the haunting melodies of Ennio Morricone. Now dress it up in green hospital scrubs and hide it behind surgical masks and you have Liverpool's enigmatic Clinic and their equally enigmatic third CD *Winchester Cathedral*, their latest disc guaranteed to seduce music geeks while leaving everybody else scratching their heads.

★★★★1/2

— DS

Pedro the Lion
Achilles Heel
Jade Tree

Murder, lust, greed, depression, self-mutilation, dismemberment by speeding train, alcohol abuse and a Holy Spirit who drops the f-bomb. It goes without saying that Pedro the Lion's David Bazan is not your average born-again Christian singer-songwriter. And thanks to his mumbly Stipe-ish drawl, knack for beautifully morose melodies and penchant for the sort of slow-burning intensity that recalls Red House Painters or American Music Club, *Achilles Heel* is far above your average Christian-rock disc. Bazan may not please the faithful here — but he's guaranteed to win some converts with his challenging lyrics and uncompromising vision.

★★★★

— DS

IN THE CLUBS

Sixtoo

Chewing on Glass &
Other Miracle Cures
Ninja Tune / Outside

The line between hip-hop, jazz and electronica has been gradually blurring for years. On his outstanding and artful full-length *Chewing on Glass & Other Miracle Cures*, Montreal resident Rob (Sixtoo) Squire comes close to rubbing it out once and for all. Instead of relying on crate-dug samples, Squire learned to play piano and recruited

Ray Charles
Genius Loves
Company
Concorde / Koch

You couldn't ask for a more fitting sendoff than this. Or a better-attended one.

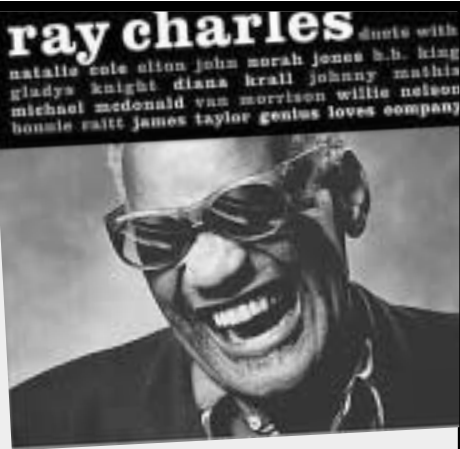
Even as he was being treated for the liver cancer that ultimately ended his life, soul pioneer Ray Charles — an artist whose groundbreaking work has influenced generations of musicians — summoned his energy to record this set of duets with a varied list of friends, contemporaries and acolytes.

And a swell stroll down memory lane it is. Piano gals like Norah Jones and Diana Krall turn down the lights, cozy up and purr Charles classics like *Here We Go Again* and *You Don't Know Me*. Blues icons like Bonnie Raitt and B.B. King get down with *Do I Ever Cross Your Mind?* and *Sinner's Prayer*. Gladys Knight preaches the gospel on *Heaven Help us All*, while soul sister Natalie Cole gets sinful on a jazzy revamp of *Fever*. Willie Nelson juxtaposes his dusty twang with an orchestra on a sweeping version of *It Was a Very Good Year*. Van Morrison shares the mic on a smoky live recording of *Crazy Love*. And Elton John lets Ray take the first chorus on *Sorry Seems to be the Hardest Word*, recorded just a couple of months before Charles' June 10 passing.

Obviously, between Ray's condition and the populist approach, this is hardly Charles at his strongest or most groundbreaking. But even the disease that has clearly diminished the physical power of his voice cannot dilute its emotional impact on these dozen cuts. Ultimately, *Genius Loves Company* leaves you wishing we still had Brother Ray around — but thankful he left us this memento to cap his rich and immortal legacy.

★★★★ our of ★★★★★

— Darryl Sterdan

The Libertines
The Libertines
Rough Trade / EMI

Punchups, breakups, breakins and breakdowns. Rehab, reformation, relapse and resurrection.

It would, quite frankly, be impossible for London's Libertines to write songs that were half as riveting as the endless slo-mo car wreck of their life and career. But damned if these

trouble-plagued post-punks don't give it their best shot on their self-titled sophomore disc, though — and damned if they don't succeed now and then too.

The whole Clash-meets-Smiths vibe of their 2002 debut *Up the Bracket* is still in effect here, thanks in no small part to the return of former Clash guitarist Mick Jones in the producer's chair. Clearly more intent on preserving the raw immediacy and ragged honesty of these performances than creating a slick studio album, Jones replicates the anything-goes spontaneity of *London Calling* on this 40-minute disc. That crackling energy reaches its zenith on autobiographical cuts like *The Man Who Would Be King*, *What Became of the Likely Boys* and *Can't Stand Me Now*, which rehashes frontman Pete Doherty's death-wish lifestyle.

Like Doherty himself — and indeed, like most truly worthwhile art — the best of these 14 cuts teeter on the razor's edge between transcendent brilliance and inevitable self-destruction. If that's not riveting enough for you, nothing is.

★★★★ out of ★★★★★

— Darryl Sterdan

musical pals (including members of Godspeed You Black Emperor!) to flesh out his ideas, which became the building blocks for these 17 darkly groovy vignettes. Some tracks are totally organic, some are cut-and-paste jobs built from tapes, and others split the difference. But

Vaughn smartly keeps most of them short and bittersweet, seamlessly linking them into an album-length progression of indisputable style and taste. A cool concept brilliantly executed. Hear it live Sunday night at the Pyramid.

★★★★1/2

— DS

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HIP-HOP

The Beatnuts
Milk Me
Penalty / Outside

These veteran hip-hoppers fire up the way-back machine and deliver nostalgic cuts that are old-school like Yale, funkier than used underwear and packed with more deep grooves than your daddy's LP collection. Call them out of date if you like, but you can't accuse Psycho Les and Ju Ju of milking trends.

★★★

— DS

TROUBADOURS

Julie Delpy
Julie Delpy
PIAS / Beggars Group

Self-indulgent folk. Forgettable pop-rock. Amateurish vocals. High-school-poetry lyrics. In other words, another talented actor masquerading as an untalented musician.

★★

— DS

Jesse Malin
The Heat
Artemis / Sony

Former D Generation frontman Jesse Malin continues his evolution from punk guttersnipe to hardcore troubadour with this second CD of gritty narratives, plaintive sincerity and streetcorner romance. OK, he's still running a distant second to the likes of Paul Westerberg or homeboy Ryan Adams, who lends a hand on a few of these cuts. Still, as career makeovers go, this could be worse.

★★★

— DS

METAL

Suffocation
Souls to Deny
Relapse

Yes, pulverizing beats, frenzied guitars and demon-vomit vocals are death-metal cliches. But Suffocation invented them. And with this comeback CD — their first in nearly a decade — this New York quintet continue to wield them with more intimidating power and skill than the legion of imitators they spawned.

★★★★1/2

— DS

Top Tens

Pop Singles

1. THE REASON Hoobastank
2. BROKEN Seether feat. Amy Lee
3. MY HAPPY ENDING Avril Lavigne
4. THIS LOVE Maroon 5
5. ORDINARY Train
6. FEELIN' WAY TOO DAMN GOOD Nickelback
7. AMAZING George Michael
8. BREAKING THE HABIT Linkin Park
9. SHE WILL BE LOVED Maroon 5
10. WORLD ON FIRE Sarah McLachlan

Source: Nielsen Broadcast Data Systems

Local Best-Sellers

1. CONFESSIONS Usher
2. ELEPHUNK Black Eyed Peas
3. UNDER MY SKIN Avril Lavigne
4. CINDERELLA STORY SOUNDTRACK Various Artists
5. SONGS ABOUT JANE Maroon 5
6. BILLY TALENT Billy Talent
7. GREATEST HITS Guns N' Roses
8. HYMNS OF THE 49TH PARALLEL k.d. lang
9. D12 WORLD D12
10. THE HUNGER FOR MORE Lloyd Banks

Source: Nielsen SoundScan Canada

Country Singles

1. LIVE LIKE YOU WERE DYING Tim McGraw
2. I GO BACK Kenny Chesney
3. WHISKEY LULLABY Brad Paisley feat. Alison Krauss
4. DAYS GO BY Keith Urban
5. I WANT TO LIVE Josh Gracin
6. GIRLS LIE TOO Terri Clark
7. SHE THINKS SHE NEEDS ME Andy Griggs
8. TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING Alan Jackson
9. SUDS IN THE BUCKET Sara Evans
10. HERE FOR THE PARTY Gretchen Wilson

Source: Billboard Online

Music DVDs

1. THE GIRL CAN ROCK Hilary Duff
2. ROCK AGAINST BUSH VOL. 2 Various Artists
3. READY TO DIE Notorious B.I.G.
4. DISCLAIMER II Seether
5. THE GORGE Dave Matthews Band
6. LIVE IN TEXAS Linkin Park
7. VEINTISIETE Los Temerarios
8. DOS GRANDES Marco Antonio Solis & Joan Sebastian
9. A CAMBIO DE QUE? Alacranes Musical
10. DE AMORES Y RECUERDOS ... 20 EXITOS ROMANTICOS Los Angeles de Charly

Source: Billboard Online

Underground

1. CHEWING ON GLASS & OTHER MIRACLE CURES Sixtoo
2. NO MAN'S BLUES The Gunshy
3. JIMSON WEEK Nathan
4. SONIC NURSE Sonic Youth
5. THE REAL NEW FALL LP The Fall
6. DEAD CITIES RED SEAS LOST M83
7. TYRANNOSAURUS HIVES The Hives
8. LA INCREIBLE AVENTURA Migala
9. FIELDS IN GLASS The High Dials
10. RIOT ON AN EMPTY STREET Kings of Convenience

Source: UMF 101.5