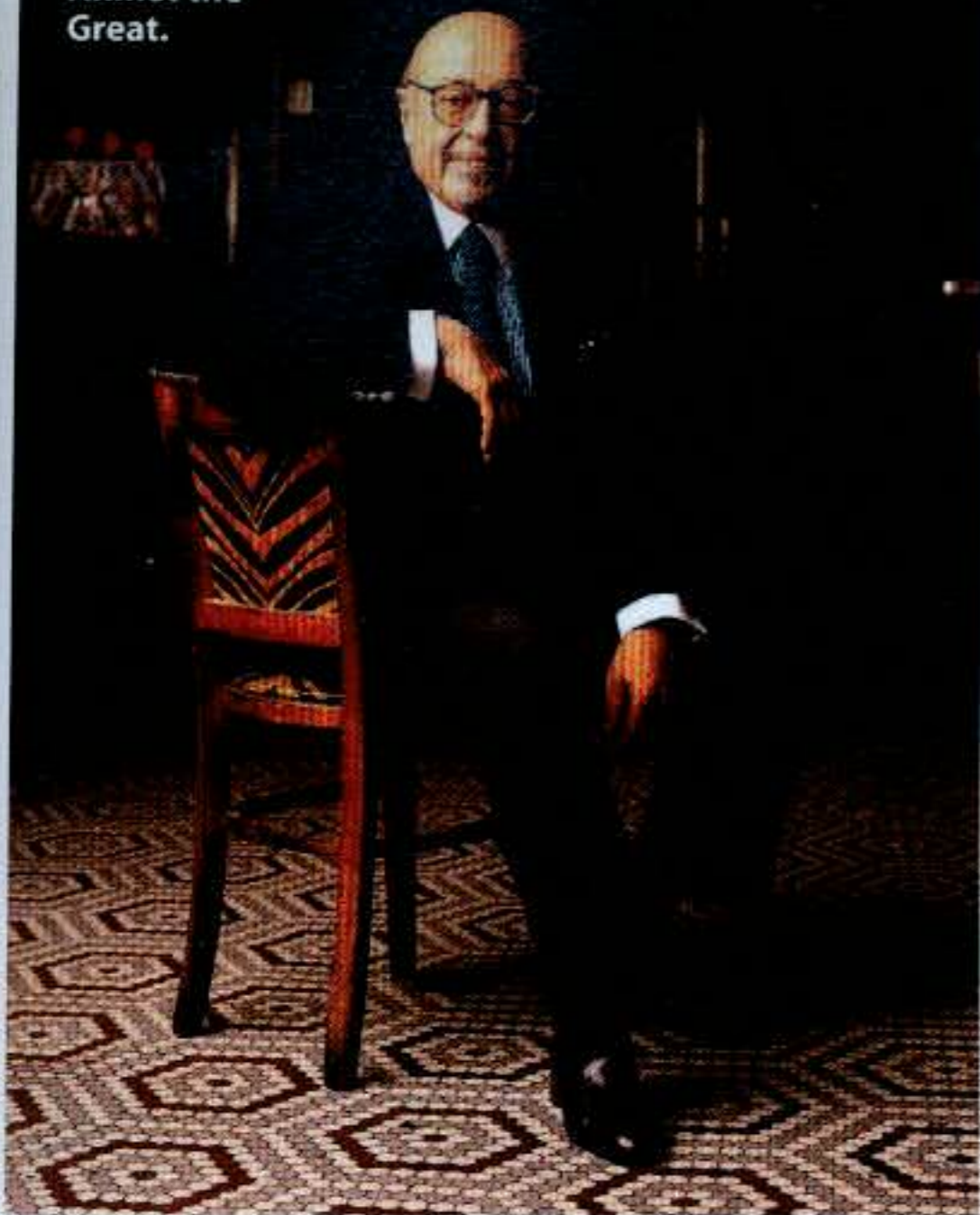


emperor:
Ahmet the
Great.



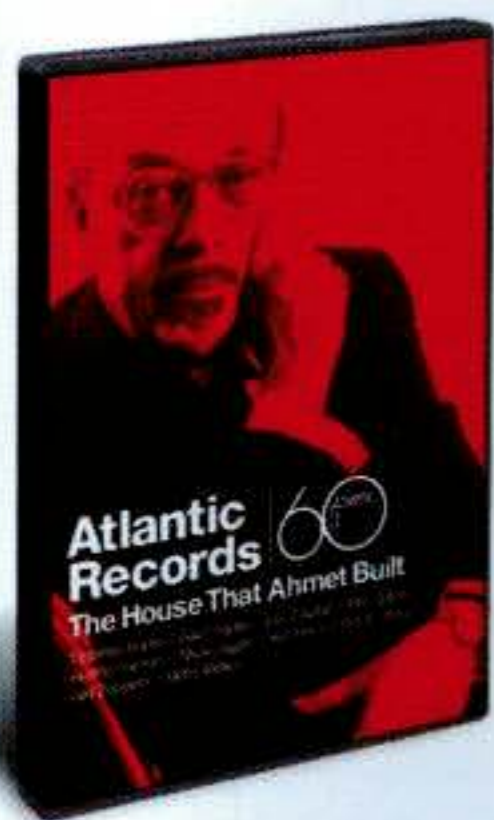
Ahmet Ertegun: Atlantic Records: The House That Ahmet Built

★★★★ ATLANTIC

He could have been a diplomat; instead he founded Atlantic Records.

Son of the Turkish ambassador to the US, Ahmet Ertegun was an unlikely rock'n'roll pioneer. First broadcast on American public television earlier this year and now on DVD, this two-hour documentary examines his rise to power as chief of the most successful independent rock'n'soul label, often via interviews with the man himself conducted not long before his death last year. A well-paced mixture of talking heads (including Mick Jagger, Aretha Franklin, Jimmy Page, Eric Clapton and Jerry Wexler) and exciting archive footage of Atlantic artists (stretching back as far as R&B stars Ruth Brown and The Clovers), it tells both Ertegun's and Atlantic's story with style and a wealth of amusing

Norma Jean Roy



anecdotes. But the omission of a few key Atlantic stars (notably The Rascals) rankles and the tale's momentum hits a brick wall in the '80s.

Richie Unterberger

Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers

★★★★

Tokyo 1961 + London 1965 IMPRO JAZZ

Hard bop heroes provide their greatest hits plus other essentials.

The 1961 set, admirably shot (in black and white) at a Tokyo studio session, is from a time when the Messengers could do little wrong, thanks to a line-up comprising ill-starred trumpeter Lee Morgan, tenorman Wayne Shorter, pianist Bobby Timmons, bassist Jymie Merritt and a leader-drummer known as Buhaina. The material includes a fire-stoked workout on Dizzy Gillespie's *A Night In Tunisia* and in-form renditions of Morgan's *Yama*, Shorter's *The Summit*, Timmons' *Dat Dere and Moanin'*, plus Benny Golson's *Blues March*, the last two items featuring support from a steaming Japanese big band. Morgan, who was seldom captured on film, also appears on the London date, alongside Sun Ra tenorist John Gilmore and others. This later session, captured around the time of the band's *Soul Finger* album, is fantastic and confirms once more just how exemplary this DVD series continues to be.

Fred Dellar

World. The Peter Green Story

★★★★★ SCANBOX

Two-plus hours of blues feeling and lysergic fall-out.



Steve Graham's two-hour documentary on the life of Britain's most heart-wringing guitarist and his key role in the Fleetwood Mac saga is a model of how these things should be done. All the bald and grizzled heads – even the equally lost Jeremy Spencer – are here to tell the tale; the footage of when they were lithe, hairy and on fire remains inspirational. Then, of course, it all went wrong. "To them it's schizophrenic," Peter Green ponders his diagnosis in the '70s, "but to you it's hellishly single-minded." Affable and lucid until he trails off into contemplation of the middle-distance, Peter Green remains committed to a certain vision – musical, ethical and spiritual – just as he was before 1970 when, after a three-day acid orgy in Munich, he and the world went their separate ways. His life runs according to self-imposed rules that seem incomprehensible to others: in 1969 he personally wanted to feed starving Biafrans cheese and tomato sandwiches; a decade later he threatened to shoot his accountant for not donating his earnings to charity; today he refuses to own a Gibson Les Paul, the guitar that defined the sound of his greatest hits. But here he is now, fishing, reminiscing and even playing a bit. Who can fail to rejoice?

Mat Snow

The Rolling Stones

★★★

Truth & Lies

LIBERATION ENTERTAINMENT

A budget priced, whistle-stop chronology.

No live footage in a workaday documentary that focuses on news stories generated by the Stones' career and personal lives between 1964-2002, with narration so clichéd it could almost pass for a spoof. Nuggets such as "Word got around... the band really began to rock" are as formulaic as the Pathé feature on *Swinging Britain* that is one of the DVD's extras. Charlie Watts' pointed quip when Bill Wyman marries young Mandy Smith aside ("No I don't think it's a good match – I said I'm happy for them"), there are few good quotes from the band. Bigger events such as Altamont and the death of Brian Jones are

some pieces of archive footage are used repeatedly. Truth & Lies is OK as entry level overview, but its chat with erstwhile Stones lawyer Tim Hardacre (another extra) is the sole item offering new insight.

James McNair

The Hours And Times

★★★★ VDI ENTERTAINMENT

"Entirely fictitious" 1991 account of Lennon and Epstein 'love tryst'.

Barely an hour long, black and white and mostly set in one hotel room, this is the story of what might have happened during the much fabled weekend that John Lennon spent with Brian Epstein in Barcelona – just the two of them, no Beatles or Cynthia, who was home with new-born Julian – during the spring of '63. Epstein (David Angus) exudes a very British

the best in his obvious love for an aggressively teasing Lennon (Ian Hart, he'd reprise the role in *Backbeat*). Lennon's sarcastic tenderness and jocular aggression are transfixing on screen. Californian Christopher Munch's film's very European – slow, moody, haunting, very New Wave. Extras include an interview with Munch and the actors' audio commentary.

Sylvie Simmons



DVD EXTRA

BY IAN HARRISON JAMES MAYCOCK AND JEFF TAMARKIN

Space Ritual

★★★

Satiricon ENTSTV LTD

Former Hawkwind alumni Nik Turner, Dave Anderson, Terry Ollis and more get communal in Shrewsbury in 2004, to play early '70s Hawkwind songs with lashings of psychedelic visuals and a starkers Stacia stand-in in a clown wig. For space rockers of almost pensionable age, it's admirably deranged, though the meet-the-maker thunder of *Space Ritual* this isn't. *IH*

hell out of ballads such as Laura Nyro's *And When I Die* and Brenda Holloway's *You've Made Me So Very Happy*, BS&T had descended into an overblown lounge act. Grainy footage doesn't help either. *JT*

The Original Country Joe Band

★★★

Turned Up And Turned On SECRET FILMS

Four-fifths of the classic-era Country Joe & The Fish reunite and play the oldies for a UK audience. The intensity level has dropped a few notches – no doubt due to the absence of lead guitarist Barry 'The Fish' Melton – and they could use a few more new tunes, but for a bunch of greying hippies they still sound psychedelic. *JT*

Beats Of The Heart: Salsa/ Rhythm Of Resistance

★★★★ DIGITAL CLASSICS DVD

Salsa focuses on the influx of Hispanic immigrants and their music into New York. Great footage includes



super-grinner Tito Puente jamming in the Bronx and Charlie Palmieri teaching deprived kids percussion. Eloquent poet/activist Felipe Luciano places all in its socio-political context. *Rhythm Of Resistance* tells how music operated as both a channel for defiance and source of joy under a racist regime. *JM*

Liberacion: The Songs Of The New Cuban Underground

★★★★ PETROL



When Aussie label head C.M. Murphy travelled to Santiago de Cuba to record the local variation on reggaeton, he faced governmental red tape but still managed to capture the key artists and film the proceedings. Grateful Cuban audiences are enthralled by it all, but musically the results pale in comparison to the Puerto Rican original. *JT*

Blood, Sweat & Tears

★★★

Spinning Wheel CHERRY RED

None of the original band were around for this 1980 UK live set, and although David Clayton-Thomas still sang the