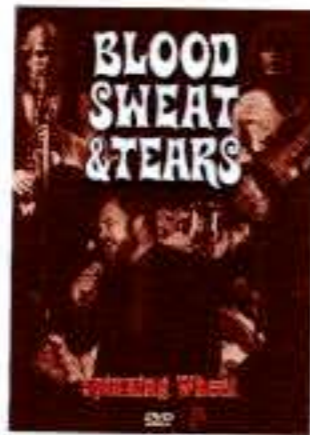


live-perfor-
e proof that
pycat move-
n. Rather, it
for personal
y outrage at
d those who
nately dedi-
mainstream
re "outside"
d as genuine
has clearly
video clips
o archive of
hen quickly
viewees are
umorous in
nry Rollins
or Threat),
merican Hard-
fiance, and
ything else,
ras include
scenes, and
nion piece
s is recom-



• **Blood, Sweat & Tears: Spinning Wheel** ★1/2

(1980) 58 min. DVD: \$19.95. Music Video Distributors (avail. from most distributors).



Advertised as "their long-awaited first home video ever," this near-hour-long concert by an ensemble calling itself Blood, Sweat & Tears will no doubt be of interest to fans of the veteran band. Unfortunately, no original members remain from the lineup that, under the leadership of Al Kooper, made *Child is Father to the Man*, the truly great 1968 debut album. In fact, by 1980, only blowhard singer David Clayton-Thomas was still around from the band's commercial heyday, which was initiated by their self-titled second record in 1969, so while the musicians here are all excellent players, this is Blood, Sweat & Tears in name only. The band was pushing a new album at the time, so the hits that serve as the prime attraction for older fans ("Hi De Ho," "And When I Die," "You Made Me So Very Happy," "Spinning Wheel") are performed more or less as a medley, with nary a one clocking in at longer than two minutes. The rest of the program consists of pedestrian Clayton-Thomas tunes like "Nuclear Blues" and "You're the One" (you haven't lived till you've heard MC C-T invoking "funky, funky Kingston town" over some six minutes of pointless quasi-reggae), plus an endless jazz-rock-funk jam that takes up the last quarter of the running time and concludes with a ridiculous version of Jimi Hendrix's "Manic

case, *The Best Disco in Town* features 26 songs performed live in London's Wembley Arena in 2003 by some of the disco era's hottest acts. Kid Creole and the Cocoanuts kick things off with a funky "Stool Pigeon" and a groovy "Annie I'm Not Your Daddy"; The Real Thing demonstrate tight harmonies and uplifting soulful energy on "Can't Get By Without You"; and crowd pleaser Rose Royce serves up hits with "Wishing On a Star" and "Love Don't Live Here Anymore." Keeping the groove moving, Shalamar delivers a buoyant "There It Is," and Tavares knocks everyone out with the anthemic "Don't Take Away the Music," while also stoking memories with their familiar cover of "More Than a Woman." The big draw, not surprisingly, is the return of Chic, who remind viewers of just how electrifying it can get on "I'm Coming Out," "Upside Down," "He's the Greatest Dancer," and more. Presented in DTS, Dolby Digital 5.1 and stereo, DVD extras on the bonus disc include a behind-the-scenes featurette, interviews with The Real Thing and Chic's Nile Rodgers, a Chic medley, and a photo gallery. Recommended. Aud: P. (T. Keogh)



Well Go

val show-

Depression." The whole presentation is subpar: no audio options or bonus features, musicians misnamed on the cover, fuzzy visuals, and what may be the worst sound this reviewer has ever heard, marked by a nonstop buzz that's often louder than the music itself. Even for diehards, this is not recommended. Aud: P. (S. Graham)

Buddy Greco: The Man and the Music ★★★

(2007) 156 min. DVD: \$19.99. SRO (dist. by Kultur International Films). ISBN: 0-7697-8498-4.



A survivor from a lost era in Las Vegas and American popular entertainment, consummate performer Buddy Greco has both the memories and the memorabilia to offer a rare personal glimpse into a glamorous past. This three-part documentary combines archival footage of Las Vegas, a tour of Greco's expansive collection of photographs, and clips of Greco performing, plus his reminiscences about Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., and other members of the Rat Pack, as well as his own notable career. Greco talks about playing piano in clubs while he was still in high school, discusses his friendship with Marilyn Monroe, and shares the simple secret of singing a love song onstage ("You've got to look at the women."). Presented in Dolby Digital stereo, the songs performed here include "Misty," "Bewitched, Bothered & Bewildered," "Volare," and a Nat King Cole medley. Recommended. Aud: P. (T. Keogh)

Carlos Santana/Wayne Shorter: Live at the 1988 Montreux Jazz Festival ★★★

(1988) 124 min. DVD: \$19.99. Image Entertainment (avail. from most distributors).



Talking about "Sanctuary," one of the nearly 20 compositions performed in the course of this 1988 concert from the Montreux Jazz Festival, saxophonist Wayne Shorter says, "It's not done yet." Nothing remarkable about that, except that Shorter wrote the tune for *Bitches Brew*, the seminal jazz fusion recording released by Miles Davis 37 years ago—a testament to the fact that Shorter, one of our two or three greatest living jazzmen, never stops searching and growing. The Weather Report co-founder is brilliant throughout this show, which finds him joined by guitarist Carlos Santana and a terrific band that includes three former Reporters (drummer Leon "Ndugu" Chanceler, bassist Alphonso Johnson, and Chester Thompson, who plays keyboards here but occupied the drum chair while in Weather

Report). The music recaptures the spirit sound: a rich blend of world music, mixing funk with carefully-constructed jazz. Shorter's solos are uniform in his ability to inspire and challenge players (who also include a fine keyboardist, and a long associated with Santana, Peraza and Jose Chepito). But the problem with this part is a good guitarist with a sound, but he is not a jazz player, he favors a bluesy sound, limits his ability to interact with improvisers like Shorter. He takes part in the kind of flow that characterizes such performances. Santana favors "Incident at the World Trade Center" for Salvador" and "Incident at the World Trade Center" still sound fine, but on a CD, the saxist seems out of his element. It would have been nice if the repertoire included material like Shorter's "Sky" or Santana's "Euro-Asian." Both leaders to shine here in a concert—presented in Dolby Digital 5.1 and stereo, and featuring musician interviews—i Aud: P. (S. Graham)

Celtic Tides: A Musical Odyssey ★★1/2

(2000) 50 min. DVD: \$19.98. MPI Home Video (avail. from most distributors). ISBN: 0-7886-0847-9.

Although *Celtic Tides* was produced for the CBC and first televised in 1998, containing performances from a stellar cast of artists—including The Chieftains, McKennitt, Clannad, Nanci Griffith, Solas, and Old Blind Dogs—it's more of an illustrated lecture on the history and character of Celtic music, with numerous musical examples. Cookie Rankin as she strums a harp, lovely (and nicely filmed) performances, the documentary is an introduction to the original traditions of Celtic music, with an emphasis on its melodic structure, nature, and improvisation. It also examines the innovations of practitioners through the centuries (and various musical styles). And the individual artists, both through personal reminiscences and through explanations of their professional careers, revealing and often amusing. A point those hoping to hear more musical segments, this could be an extraordinarily popular DVD. Aud: P. (optional purchase. Aud: P.)