

# DVD REVIEWS



## QUEEN *Under Review: 1980-1991, An Independent Critical Analysis*

"One of the greatest bands we will ever be privileged to witness," states Malcom Dome, one of the self-proclaimed Queen experts just before the credits role on this DVD which is totally unauthorized by the band. Even if Dome did write the biographies of Bon Jovi and Motley Crue, a certain level of skepticism runs rampant when a DVD of a band of Queen's magnitude states it has no association with the band whatsoever in big bold letters on the back cover. This is probably just a legal means of getting through a few loopholes, but nevertheless it's akin to certain health store vitamins declaring that statements on the bottle have not been approved by the FDA. On the contrary, without involvement from the band, perhaps we are getting a truly accurate and filter-free portrayal. I am a walking contradiction. *Under Review* definitely has its share of juicy, behind-the-scenes details but, for the most part, this quasi-documentary is a compelling tale of Queen's time as a band and Eddie Mercury's life dealing with the many injustices he faced, and

ultimately the disease that killed him. For those many fans who believe the idea that Queen's music is bigger and bolder than anything to come out to present date, this factual depiction of the band's history was both informative and awe-inspiring throughout. Recommended for fans who own Queen's first vinyl test pressings, as well as the casual fan born in the late '70s who proudly boasts *Greatest Hits* at the top of their "CDs to take if I were stranded on an island and could only take three CDs with me" list.

[*Chrome Dreams, chromedreams.co.uk*] Justin Luczejko

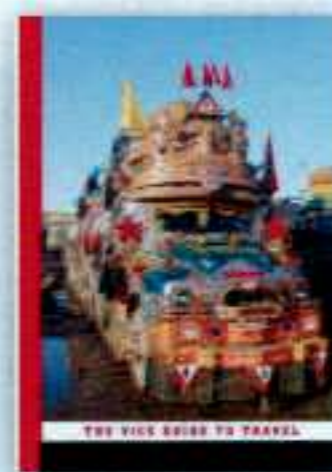


## WITH LOVE *A Great Circle*

With Love is an Italian quartet dabbling in both musical and visual art forms. The group recorded a CD entitled *A Great Circle* and shot a video companion for it. The DVD covers their work shown in various galleries and museums. With Love's music is experimental and abstract with bursts of screams and droning sounds. The video begins with murky images juxtaposed with shots of clouds, trees, and a man wearing a flowing tapestry robe walking through a forest. The imagery evokes the vibe of a

David Lynch film. The next set of images finds the band performing against a spinning mirror ball while playing their instruments in a room with green walls. The last vignette features no-wave music being played over visuals of a naked man eating fruit. The entire video is incoherent and is better suited to the visual art realm than the music.

[*GSL, goldstandardlabs.com*] Carin Pirnia



## THE VICE GUIDE TO TRAVEL

Anyone familiar with the Vice Magazine empire is salivating at this new DVD series, starting with their guide to travel. Basically it's a guide to the places most people would never, ever want to go, such as the drug-addled streets of Rio or the deep jungles of the Congo. How about a trip to the site of Chernobyl? Nope, didn't think so. Of course, the Vice gang are up to hitting these bizarre locales and this DVD plays like the thinking person's *Jackass*. With lots of social commentary and enough general debauchery, *The Vice Guide to Travel* is the beginning of what is sure to be a very interesting DVD series.

[*Vice, viceland.com*] Jason Schreurs

# DUSTBIN REVIEWS

A LOOK BACK AT SOME OF OUR FAVORITE RECORDS



## LESS THAN JAKE *Losing Streak*

Less Than Jake fans love to bitch about how the old Less Than Jake was so much better than the new hornless trash they have been releasing (their words, not mine). The three albums these fans usually fall back on are *Pezcore*, *Losing Streak*, and *Hello Rockview*, a trinity of punk-ska brilliance. *Losing Streak* was the major label debut that first received widespread attention and garnered countless new fans for the band. It has some raw and classic tracks like "Automatic," "Johnny Quest Thinks We're Sellouts," and "Jen Doesn't Like Me Anymore," but for what it's worth, the better production value, music, and lyrics of *Hello Rockview* (only two years later) surpassed this disc by a mile. Still, *Losing Streak* has more than enough goods to remain in regular rotation and will always be a thorn in the side of the new sound Less Than Jake has acquired.

[*Capitol, 1996*] William Jones



## SUICIDE MACHINES *Destruction by Definition*

Jason Navarro has said *War Profiteering*, a very formidable Machines effort, was the second best record he'd written. Taking this information with a grain of salt, *Destruction by Definition* would surely be the album holding that top spot. Always a little more punk than ska, it was all in-your-face; from the "New Girl" screams to "So Long," 16 tracks later. Along with "SOS" and "Break the Glass," the first three tracks were instant pit starters, while "Islands" was always great for a sing-a-long. This was the perfect sound that defined not only this band, but numerous others. A decade later, the album's age makes no difference. Even after a number of great discs, such as *Battle Hymns*, the band has yet to top this brilliant debut which, with a few additions, could easily act as a greatest hits album.

[*Hollywood, 1996*] William Jones



## TRICKY *Maxinquaye*

Listening to Tricky's debut for the first time was a slap across my young face. As a 15-year-old buying a record on a whim, it opened up an entire musical world that had been previously hidden. Unsettlingly grim, subliminally sexual, and hinting at violence, the exotic sounds found on this album could have been taken from the seediest of the world's ghettos and rearranged to create this unique blend of hip-hop, world music, and rock. Like a darkly beautiful mystery, I'm still discovering the warped corners of Tricky's blasted, drug-fueled cityscape; filled with shadows, whispered threats, and beats deep enough to swallow the sun. Lured out of my comfortable grunge cocoon at an early age, this album whispered to me of dark Bristol streets a world away, safely accessible from my small town whenever I felt like pressing the play button.

[*Island, 1995*] Kevin Nelson