

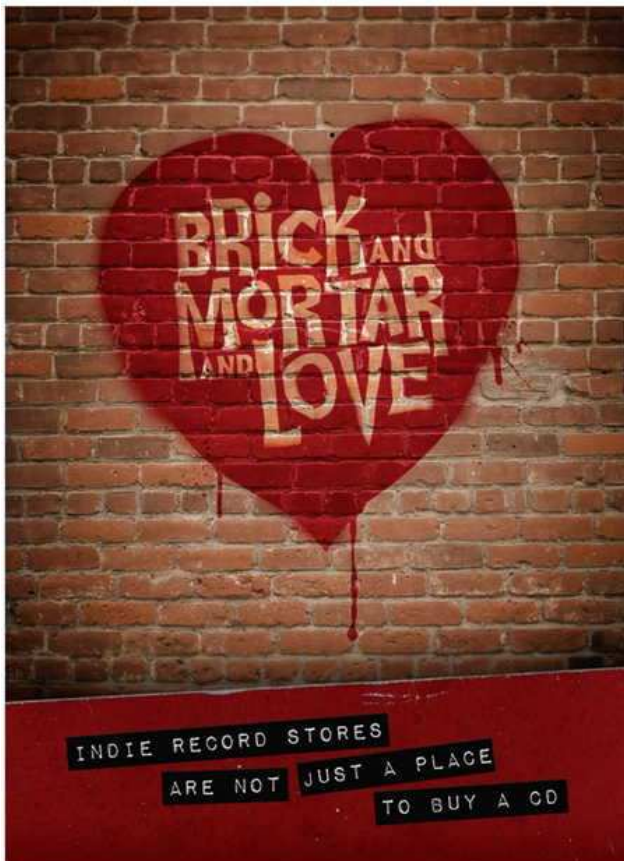
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Dusting off new, previously unreleased and reissued recordings

DVDs chronicle independent record stores; Nashville star has a new CD and a super group Mad Season has CD/DVD combo

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This first May Sound Check column kicks off with two DVDs about the problems, promise and potential of independent record stores in modern days. After that, you'll find reviews of a new CD from Nashville's Jessica Campbell, a Deluxe CD/DVD package from Seattle super group Mad Season and the latest recording from The McCrary Sisters.

'Last Shop Standing: The Rise, Fall and Rebirth of the Independent Record Shop,' (MVDvisual, HHHH)

These two April 20 DVDs which are "record store day exclusives" offer glimpses of the ways that proprietors of record stores keep things going in these days of digital downloading. This one follows how things in the UK are doing by interviewing many record store owners, musicians (Johnny Marr, Paul Weller and Billy Bragg among them), Graham Jones, the author of "Last Shop Standing," and other folks.

There are discussions about the rise of vinyl record sales during the 1970s punk-rock era when "anyone could make a record," and how early heroes like Elvis and The Beatles got things going. You'll hear obscure-at-times terms such as "listening booths," "chart shops," "golden age of record store retailing," "Napster," "vinyl quality" and "diversification."

This program seems more hopeful about independent stores' chances for survival than the one below, but both are interesting.