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 issue

Grace Notes

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 BY KENT TUCKER

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DVD

LIKE 'JAZZ SHOTS'?

Talmage Farlow (Unrated, 59 mins., 1981) is a documentary about the stingingly precise jazz guitarist who abandoned stardom in 1958. Director Lorenzo DeStefano shows us that Tal Farlow, in the years before his death in 1998, didn't aban-

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Jazz Shots From the East Coast

Volume 1
 Unrated, 92 mins.

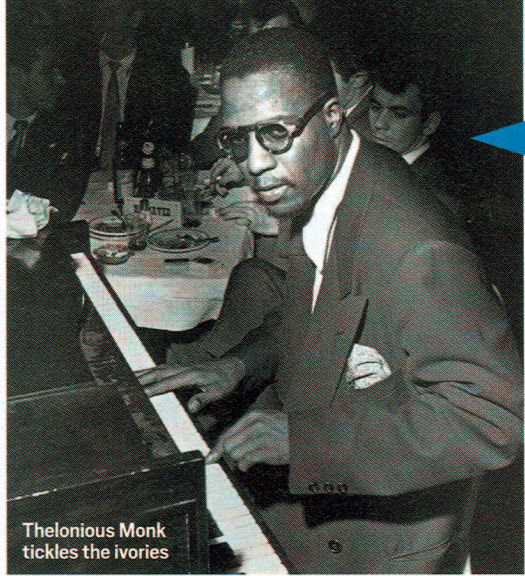
Jazz Shots From the West Coast

Volume 1
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These discs include rare, sometimes remarkable, sometimes routine performance footage of jazz greats such as Thelonious Monk, Duke Ellington, Chet Baker, Art Pepper, and Bill Evans. You can see Monk performing his "Blue Monk," stabbing at the keyboard, making little wriggles at the piano bench, as

though fearing his mighty instrument might attack him any moment, yet still supremely serene behind those famous sunglasses of his that look like their stems are made of bamboo shoots.

The *East Coast/West Coast* divisions—hey, what is Eforfilms trying to do, start some kind of hip-hop-style beef between factions?—sometimes seem arbitrary. Indeed, the liner notes acknowledge that some figures straddle the country. Lester



Thelonious Monk tickles the ivories

Young, for example, "was placed on the West Coast [disc] due to his especially strong influence on the generations of saxophonists from that coast." Yet Young isn't given a billed appearance on either disc, and his influence was felt from sea to shining sea. *Jazz Shots* suffers from a lack of information—no dates or locations of the performances, and the sound quality is occasionally (as on the single Roland Kirk appearance) atrocious. But with relatively little jazz available on DVD, these discs still qualify as must-sees: They bring adventurous jazz to life with coursing power. Both: **B+**

Montgomery, and Barbara Stanwyck.

manances—the judge who hears Ann Marie's fender-bender case is a prisoner of his own slow burns, and Rob Reiner overdoes it as an obnoxious pal—

just wanted to be somebody herself" and recommending that the head of ABC read *The Feminine Mystique*. Remember when that was audacious? **A-**