

ESSENTIAL REVIEWS

ment. But that doesn't mar the overall effect of this lovely effort.—LC

VITAL REISSUES

BILLY BACON & THE FORBIDDEN PIGS
Still Smokin' After 20 Years

DVD

BILLIE HOLIDAY
Jazz Memories: The Genius of Lady Day
EForFilms DVD2869029NT
RELEASE DATE: Oct. 26

ASHANTI
Concrete Rose
PRODUCERS: various
The Inc. B00074600
RELEASE DATE: 10/26/04
A more confident and powerful performance is onboard for "Concrete Rose." Powered by soulful producers, "Concrete Rose" features other equally talented artists. These include "Down" featuring Jour T.I. and "One of Several" featuring Seven Aureli. "Don't Let Th



young R&B singer's "Tonight." The album is hard-hitting and, at times, both of which beautiful attitude." After she won't be surprised hoping and seriously track—a reminder of Ja Rule's high.—GM

Anyone who is unfamiliar with Billie Holiday's life story but wants to learn about the jazz icon will likely not get as much out of "Jazz Memories: The Genius of Lady Day" as those who are better educated about her background. The documentary is light on narration and does not contain commentary from Holiday scholars, instead relying on still photography and performance footage to tell her history. The DVD is more of an audio and visual scrapbook that aficionados will appreciate for the 14 rare TV and film clips it counts among its special features. They include Holiday's scenes in the film "New Orleans" and a musical short with Count Basie & His Sextet. The years haven't been kind to some of the footage, but that doesn't distract from Lady Day's genius. Her unique voice is particularly potent while performing the brooding "Strange Fruit"; her mournful warbling makes this song about lynching even more chilling.—CLT

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- Mike Patton/Kaada, "Romances" (Ipecac)
- Brother JT, "Off Blue" (Birdman)
- Roni Size, "Return to V" (Thrive)

Billboard Magazine
December 18, 2004



DANCE

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Michael Paoletta, Chuck Taylor, Christa L. Titus, Ray Waddell, Christopher Walsh. ESSENTIALS: Releases deemed by the review editors to deserve special attention on the basis of albums of special artistic, archival and commercial interest and outstanding collections of works by one or more artists. PICKS (P): New releases predicted to hit the top half of the chart in the U.S. because of their musical merit. All albums commercially available in the United States are eligible. Send album review copies and singles review copies to Michael Paoletta (Billboard, 770 Broadway, 6th