

The holidays are finally over, which means you're probably broke. It's the dead of winter, which is pretty much the Dead Zone as far as local live entertainment is concerned. And it's about a billion degrees below, which means your car wouldn't start even if you had someplace to go and some money to spend. Faced with these obstacles, the best thing you can do is surrender — stay on the couch, get under the blanket and watch some DVDs. If you prefer music to movies, we have a few suggestions:



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ROCK



Jane's Addiction Three Days Sanctuary / EMI

A new Jane's Addiction video? Well, yes and no. *Three Days* was shot during the band's first reunion tour back in 1997, only to end up shelved. Now we know why. A failed attempt at mixing fact and fiction, the film dilutes decent tour footage with a meaningless subplot about an amateurish videographer wrapped up in the band's hedonistic backstage world of psychedelic drugs, freaky sex and soaring rock 'n' roll. Silly? Oh yeah. But there are enough transcendent performances of oldies like *Mountain Song* to keep fans from hitting the Eject button.

★★★1/2

— DS

Linkin Park

Live in Texas Warner

We know Linkin Park are huge. But we've never been able to understand why. And their new concert DVD *Live in Texas* isn't giving us any answers. Unless, that is, watching six guys in T-shirts, baggy pants, baseball caps and sneakers grind 'n' bash their way through a set of regurgitated rap-metal is cool.

★★★

— DS

Mudvayne

All Access to All Things Epic / Sony

In the past, we have mocked alt-metal bruisers Mudvayne for their elaborate makeup. Now that we have seen their live set *All Access to All Things*, we are having second thoughts. Truth is, without the weird getups, you can't tell them — or the bludgeoning intensity of their relentlessly monotonous repertoire — from a million other black-clad, goat-tee-sporting, multiply pierced bands. Back to the costume store, boys.

★★★

— DS

Nashville Pussy Keep on F—in' in Paris! MVD

If you've seen one Nashville Pussy show, you've seen them all. The co-ed sleaze merchants fire up the Marshall, put the distortion pedals to the metal and barrel through southern-fried riff-rockers like *Struttin' Cock*, *High as Hell* and *Say Something Nasty*. Between those '70s-metal odes, they toss in covers of AC/DC and Turbonegro. Like some distaff Angus Young, lead guitar mistress Ruyter Suys spends the show whipping her corkscrew hair, peeling down to her skivvies — and, more importantly, cranking out more and better licks than The Nuge has come up with in decades. Sure, you've seen it all before. But now that it's all available on their live disc *Keep on F—in' in Paris!*, we can't think of one good reason not to see it again.

★★★1/2

— DS

POP

Justin Timberlake

Live From London Zomba / BMG

Considering he seems to spend most of his life performing in front of a camera, you'd think Justin Timberlake could have come up

★★★

— DS

David Cross

Let America Laugh Sub Pop / Outside

Sure, war is hell — but touring the country doing standup is no *Teddy Bears' Picnic* either. Not according to comic David Cross's road-trip documentary *Let America Laugh*, anyway.

Unlike most live DVDs, *Let America Laugh* practically ignores the performances, focusing instead on the endless parade of losers who seem to dog Cross's every step. Drunken hecklers, smart-alec fans who shout out punchlines, redneck crowds, creepy journalists, uncooperative club owners, annoying groupies, they're all here. And the twisted, cerebral and mean-spirited Cross (*Mr. Show*, *Arrested Development*) doesn't hesitate to eviscerate them all — usually onstage, to their face, in front of a crowd. Even his own family isn't safe — Cross's description of a phone prank on his sister will have you splitting your sides (and perhaps reaching for the phone).

More importantly, though, watching *Let America Laugh* will make you think twice about opening your mouth at one of his performances. Or doing anything else to cross Cross.

★★★★1/2 out of ★★★★★

— Darryl Sterdan



The Who The Kids Are Alright Pioneer

Alright is a bleedin' understatement.

Anybody who saw The Who documentary *The Kids Are Alright* in theatres or on VHS already knows how great it is. Well, now it's even better. Tons better. After years of painstaking research, reconstruction and restoration, the original 1979 film has finally been relaunched as a two-disc set that arguably lives up to its billing as "The Ultimate Rock Film."

What's so great about it? Well, first and foremost, of course, there are the unforgettable performances themselves — the (literally) explosive version of *My Generation* from *The Smothers Brothers* show; the electrifying *Tommy* cuts from Woodstock; the ground-breaking mini-opera *A Quick One, While He's Away* from The Rolling Stones' *Rock 'n' Roll Circus*; the masterful renditions of *Baba O'Riley* and *Won't Get Fooled Again* filmed especially for the movie mere months before the death of lunatic drummer Keith Moon. Just to



see these again is worth the price of admission.

But here's the thing — you've never seen (or heard) them quite like this. The extensive renovations made to the film — all of which are described in minute detail on the bonus disc — included restoring several minutes of missing footage (mostly from *A Quick One*), adjusting the colour balance in virtually every scene, making frame-by-frame repairs to some damaged bits, remixing the sound for 5.1 and even slowing the entire film down by about 10% (it had been sped up years ago to save time in theatres).

Cumulatively, the effect is stunning, giving new clarity to the visuals, expanding the soundtrack into a pristine digital score and, ultimately, giving Pete Townshend and The Who the filmic legacy they deserve.

If all that isn't enough for you, a slew of worthwhile extras — including a recent interview with singer Roger Daltrey, multi-angle segments, trivia games, a biographical section, a few hidden goodies and, our favourite, an audio feature that lets you isolate the thundering basslines of John Entwistle — make *The Kids Are Alright* an essential addition to your DVD music library.

Long live rock.

★★★★★ out of
★★★★★

— Darryl Sterdan

with a better concert DVD than this limp and cobbled-together affair. *Live From London*, despite its stylish packaging and two-disc format, is one of the skimpiest major releases around, consisting of a 45-minute show that aired on MTV, a few photos, a video for his new McDonald's jingle, er single, *I'm Lovin' It*, and a CD of four songs. He may claim to want to *Rock Your Body*, but here he's just trying to pick your pocket.

★★

— DS

Michael Jackson

Number Ones Epic / Sony

Coming soon — Michael Jackson: Number 196738594.

★★

— DS

Sting

Inside: The Songs of Sacred Love

A&M / Universal

We were moved by Sting's DVD for *All This Time*, which captured the singer-bassist and his musicians recording a live album in Italy hours after 9/11. *Inside* duplicates the behind-the-scenes format of *All This Time*, as the group rehearses the material for his recent album *Sacred Love*. Thing is, without the urgency and emotion that gave the earlier disc its focus, this one just comes off like so much hot air. There are a few nice versions of Police oldies like *Walking on the Moon*, *Roxanne* and *Every Breath You Take*, though.

★★★

— DS

CANCON

Great Big Sea

Great Big DVD Warner

Well, you can't accuse these Newfie Celtic-rockers of false advertising. Great Big Sea's new video is indeed a *Great Big DVD* — or at least a *Mighty Long DVD*, since it contains a full-length 80-minute live show from the boys, along with more than a dozen videos and karaoke tracks, a half-

hour documentary, band home movies and a biography. Nice of them not to shortchange the fans, but there's only one problem — what can they do for a followup?

★★★

— DS

CLASSIC ROCK



Judas Priest

Electric Eye Legacy / Sony

Who says heavy metal bands don't have a sense of humour? This compilation of video clips and live footage from age-old (and recently reunited) headbangers Judas Priest is about the funniest thing we've seen in a long time. First for singer Rob Halford's ever-changing hairdos and bondage-daddy getups. Then for some ancient and truly rare BBC performances from the days before the boys discovered the power of leather. And finally for hilariously cheesy videos like *Breaking the Law*, in which the lads rob a bank — with their guitars! Stop, we're gonna pee!

★★★1/2

— DS

DVDS

Jethro Tull A New Day Yesterday Chrysalis / EMI

Prog-rock minstrel Ian Anderson dusts off 90 minutes of rare performances and old videos in this updated version of *A New Day Yesterday*, originally released to celebrate Jethro Tull's 25th anniversary in 1994. Sure, coming from the guy who wrote *Too Old to Rock 'n' Roll, Too Young to Die*, a silver-anniversary set is high irony — but even we have to admit much of this vintage footage is also highly entertaining.

★★★ — DS

HIP-HOP



OutKast The Videos Arista / BMG

Sure, you've seen *Hey Ya!* a million times. Ditto *The Way You Move*. If you go back in the day with OutKast, maybe you recall the leaky-roof clip for *Ms. Jackson* and the bumptious vid for *B.O.B.* But unless you're obsessed with Andre 3000 and Big Boi, we doubt you've seen the clips for *Player's Ball*, *Elevators* and *ATL* that round out this set.

★★★1/2 — DS

Snoop Dogg Bo\$\$ Playa Snoopadelic / EMI

This Snoop Dogg DVD claims to present "A day in the life of Bigg

Snoop Dogg." Oh yeah, and it bills itself as "The world's first gangsta musical." Now that we've let them front, here's the real dilly-yo: *Bo\$\$ Playa* is a handful of Snoop Dogg cuts from his last album, strung together with scenes of Snoop puffing reefer, cruising in ride, shooting the breeze wif his homies and doing the nasty with big-booty babes. Which, come to think of it, probably really is a day in the life of Snoop Dogg. All we can do is throw our hands in the air. And wave 'em like we just don't care.

★★★ — DS

PUNK

Riding in Vans With Boys Various Artists Resting Bird / Universal

As concepts go, it's pretty punk, not to mention pretty unique: Give the unknown opening band on a pop-punk mega-tour a bunch of video gear and let them document the whole affair from their unsullied, street-level perspective. Which is exactly what Kut U Up did while on tour with Green Day, Blink-182 and Jimmy Eat World last year. But here's the problem: What you end up with is a DVD about guys you've never heard of playing on side stages, acting out like rock stars and interacting all-too-infrequently with the bands you'd actually like to watch. That may be kinda punk, too. But it's also kinda dull.

★★★ — DS

The Slog Movie Various Artists MVD

This documentary on the fledgling L.A. hardcore scene of the early '80s features footage of fossils like Circle Jerks, T.S.O.L., Fear and Redd Kross. Which doesn't make *The Slog Movie* much of a movie, per se. But thanks to the amateurish camerawork, no-budget production and roster of long-forgotten bands, watching it can definitely be a slog.

★★★ — DS

Dee Dee Ramone Hey, is Dee Dee Home? Extinkt / MVD

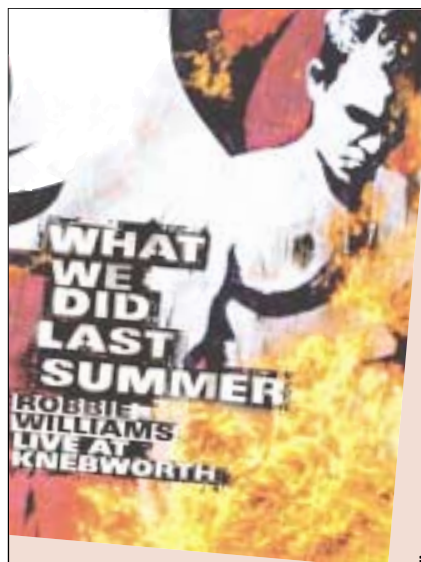
Pop Quiz! 1) What classic punk song contains the line, "Hey, is Dee Dee home?" 2) Who first recorded it? 3) Who wrote it?

If your answers were 1) *Chinese Rocks*; 2) Johnny Thunders, and; 3) Dee Dee Ramone, give yourself a gold safety pin. And treat yourself to a copy of the new DVD *Hey, is Dee Dee Home?*

This hour-long 1992 doc — which consists mostly of interview footage originally shot for a Thunders retrospective — captures the late, great Ramones bassist as he wanders down memory lane, blathering on about his old girlfriends, tattoos, addictions, friendships with punks like Thunders, Stiv Bators and Richard Hell, and how he came to pen what many see as the ultimate junkie anthem (which ended up causing him more hassles than it was worth, he claims). As a bonus, you get footage of Thunders performing *Chinese Rocks* during his heyday.

If you're a Ramones fan — and who isn't? — *Hey, is Dee Dee Home?* is sure to please. Even though you ultimately might end up feeling sorry for the guy. After all, like his own song says, he shoulda been rich — but ended up digging a Chinese ditch.

★★★★ out of ★★★★★ — Darryl Sterdan



Robbie Williams What We Did Last Summer: Live at Knebworth EMI

Say what you will about Robbie Williams' music — and we have — but you have to give him credit for knowing how to put on a show.

And this set lensed at England's Knebworth Festival in August is his biggest gig ever in more ways than one. A sprawling multi-tiered stage, gigantic moving video screens, a super-sized band, a troupe of scantily clad

dancers and even his own overinflated ego are just some of the weapons Williams deploys as he mugs, preens, struts, skips and literally begs for the love of an obliging mob of 375,000.

If you turn down the sound during some of his more pointless pop anthems and desperately cheeky stage patter — and skip over the bits where he trots out his mummy and starts to cry — it's not half bad.

★★★1/2 out of ★★★★★ — Darryl Sterdan

GUITARISTS

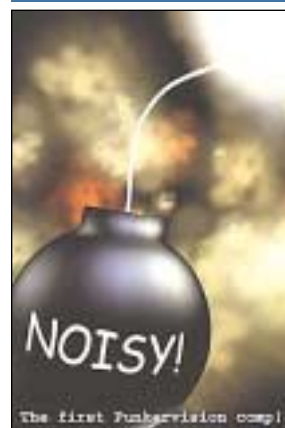
Steve Vai Live at the Astoria London Favored Nations / Fusion III Joe Satriani The Satch Tapes Epic / Sony

Hours and hours of weedly-deedly-deedly-deedly and chuggata-chuggata-chuggata and widdla-widdla-widdla from turbocharged axe-slingers Steve Vai (who leads his insanely tight band through a colourful, high-tech live set) and Joe Satriani (who collects a bunch of videos and interviews). If you play guitar, you'll get blisters on your fingers trying to keep up with all their shredding. If you don't, you might get a sore thumb from fast-forwarding through all the wankery.

Vai: ★★★1/2

Satriani: ★★★ — DS

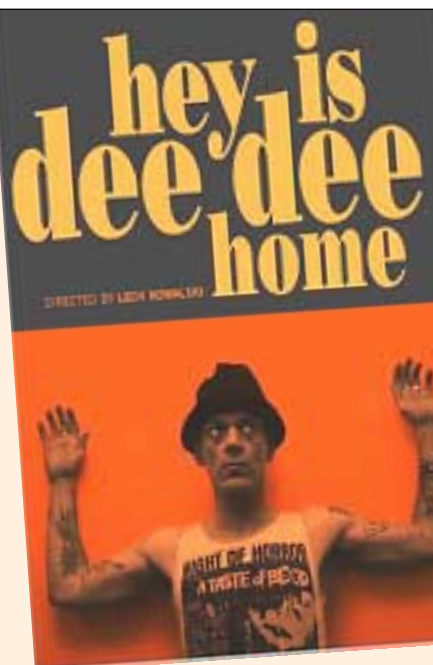
COMPILATIONS



ReCollection Various Artists Relapse Noisy! Various Artists Punkervision / MVD

Even the punks and headbangers have joined the digital revolution. For decades, underground labels have put out compilation CDs to turn cash-strapped kids on to their bands. Now, they're increasingly adding compilation DVDs like these two into the mix. The video-clip compilation *ReCollection* — issued by extreme Pennsylvania label Relapse — compiles 16 intense blasts of full-throttle metal, hardcore and noise-rock from heavy-weights like Neurosis, Dillinger Escape Plan, Brutal Truth and Today is the Day. The Punkervision set *Noisy!* takes a different tack, gathering live footage from a varied menu of punky outfits like Atom & His Package, The Supersuckers and even homegrown radicals Propagandhi, who weigh in with four tracks recorded during a recent gig in London. Either way, you get plenty of bang for your buck.

Both: ★★★1/2 — DS



Top Tens

Pop Singles

1. SOMETHING MORE Ryan Malcolm
2. HEY YA! OutKast
3. BABY BOY Beyoncé
4. MEME LES ANGES Au De Montigny
5. ME AGAINST THE MUSIC Britney Spears
6. TROUBLE Pink
7. RUBBERNECKIN' Elvis Presley
8. 2+2=5 CD1/2 Radiohead
9. SOMEDAY Nickelback
10. LIKE GLUE Sean Paul

Source: Nielsen Broadcast Data Systems

Local Best-Sellers

1. MUCHDANCE 2004 Various Artists
2. AFTERGLOW Sarah McLachlan
3. BIG SHINY TUNES 8 Various Artists
4. THE VERY BEST OF SHERYL CROW Sheryl Crow
5. FALLEN Evanescence
6. THE LONG ROAD Nickelback
7. METAMORPHOSIS Hilary Duff
8. CLOSER Josh Groban
9. BEG FOR MERCY G-Unit
10. BLINK-182 Blink-182

Source: Nielsen SoundScan Canada

Country Singles

1. THERE GOES MY LIFE Kenny Chesney
2. REMEMBER WHEN Alan Jackson
3. YOU CAN'T TAKE THE HONKY TONK OUT OF THE GIRL Brooks & Dunn
4. HONESTY (WRITE ME A LIST) Rodney Atkins
5. I LOVE THIS BAR Toby Keith
6. I WANNA DO IT ALL Terri Clark
7. DRINKIN' BONE Tracy Byrd
8. WATCH THE WIND BLOW BY Tim McGraw
9. SHE'S NOT JUST A PRETTY FACE Shania Twain
10. COWBOYS LIKE US George Strait

Source: Billboard Online

Five Years Ago

1. FLESH OF MY FLESH, BLOOD OF MY BLOOD DMX
2. DOUBLE LIVE Garth Brooks
3. N SYNC N Sync
4. SPIRIT Jewel
5. THESE ARE SPECIAL TIMES Celine Dion
6. #1'S Mariah Carey
7. BACKSTREET BOYS Backstreet Boys
8. AMERICANA The Offspring
9. COME ON OVER Shania Twain
10. VOL. 2 ... HARD KNOCK LIFE Jay-Z

Source: Billboard Online

Underground

1. CHUTES TOO NARROW The Shins
2. GHOSTS OF THE GREAT HIGHWAY Sun Kil Moon
3. THE YOUNG MACHINES Her Space Holiday
4. STREETCORE Joe Strummer & the Mescaleros
5. CAST OF THOUSANDS Elbow
6. TRANSATLANTICISM Death Cab for Cutie
7. LIVE 2003 Coldplay
8. DEAR CATASTROPHE WAITRESS Belle & Sebastian
9. LOGIC WILL BREAK YOUR HEART The Stills
10. ROCK N ROLL Ryan Adams

Source: CMJ New Music Monthly