

## Kut U Up "Riding In Vans With Boys" (Resting Bird Entertainment)

In the summer of 2002 Blink-182 embarked on a historic U.S. tour with Green Day and a cavalcade of opening acts, bringing pop punk to sheds and arenas nationwide. For some reason,



pity or cruel social experiment being the more popular choices, Blink invited the young, relatively unknown band Kut U Up to join the fun. However, they had no tour

bus. They had a skeleton crew. The majority of the fans had no idea they were even on the bill, especially when they plugged in their amps, dropped their pants and rocked out in the parking lot before every gig.

"Riding In Vans With Boys" chronicles Kut U Up's journey from the west coast eastward as part of one of the year's biggest tours. But this is no propaganda piece, you actually get to enjoy the on the road hijinx, the jokes at each other's expense as well as the low points of being on the road with the same group of guys in an enclosed space. As you can expect, Kut U Up's spirits were high when they pulled out of San Diego with their trailer in tow but as the center lines of the highway became a blur, emotions changed. Before your band embarks on their first extended jaunt, take a gander at "Riding In Vans." You may not have the same amount of excess or the opportunity to hit Billie Joe Armstrong in the face with a pie, but you'll get an idea of what you're in for. Scary, huh?

The only complaint after watching this two-hour long video tour diary is that you still don't really know what Kut U Up sounds like. You hear plenty of Green Day and Blink-182 tracks interspersed throughout the DVD but I'll be damned if I can pick one of Kut U Up's out of a lineup.

Sissy Sledgehammer

## Dropkick Murphys "One The Road with..." (Hellcat Records)

It seems like it took four years to get this DVD on shelves but honestly, it

was worth the wait. Like the Bouncing Souls did the previous year the Dropkick Murphys have slapped together an extremely comprehensive snapshot of the band's post-M i k e McColgan era.



You get a ton of live footage including the entire set of 2002's *Live On St. Patrick's Day* CD as well

some unforgettable tour footage. Even though I've known most of the guys in the Dropkicks for years I had no idea what life is like for them outside the city. For a lack of a better adjective, their tour bus atmosphere is rather, um, fraternal — chock full of cock punches, drinking and other off-beat shenanigans. Most of them involve the band's youngest member Marc "The Kid" Orrell. That boy takes an ass beating throughout the entire flick.

I'm an unabashed Dropkick Murphys supporter but even I walked away from watching "On The Road" with a better appreciation of who these guys are, what they're truly like and what they stand for. They never pretend to be anything more than a bunch of average Joe's. This DVD proves that it's not just an act.

Jay Hale

## Various Artists "What The Punk?! 2" (Music Video Distributors)

MVD has released an ungodly amount of music DVDs since the medium was created last decade and there's no better way to showcase the wares



then by cobbling together a compilation. Like always, the company doesn't fuck around — you get 22 tracks for your viewing pleasure, all, of course, from titles

available through MVD's extensive catalog.

There are a whole bunch of bands that'll tickle your fancy on "What The Punk?! 2" such as Sublime (featuring

guest vocals from Gwen Stefani), DOA and the recently deceased Wesley Willis. Two of the biggest surprises include a high quality video from Shane MacGowan where he tackles the timeless classic "Paddy Public Enemy No. 1" with his usual drunken passion as well as the unexpectedly humorous "Fuck Christmas" by The Pork Guys. That cut is lifted from the disc "Moby Presents Alien Sex Party." Don't know what that is, but the clips were damn good so I'll track it down.

Steve Dwyer

## The Vandals "The Show Must Go Off Vol. 9: Live At The House of Blues" (Kung Fu Films)

If you know your Vandals lore like a good little doobie should, consider this release "Sweatin' To The Newbies." Unlike the first DVD released by the band, this gig recorded at a jam packed House of Blues in Anaheim showcases all of the Vandals' recent work. They only play one track from an album earlier than *Live Fast Diarrhea*. Hot damn.

Another thing you'll quickly be able to compare and contrast is the overall production quality of "The Show Must Go Off Vol. 9" when stacked up against "Sweatin'." There seems to be a billion



hi-fi cameras covering every angle and the audio portion is pretty fly as well. On the flip side, the crowd is a bit more subdued in 2004.

Maybe because kids are so fucking fat today? Who knows? Who cares? This performance is tight and has a great song selection. Dude, it even has "Take It Back." What more could you ask for?

Toby Juarez

## The Cramps "Live at Napa State Mental Hospital" (Music Video Distributors)

There are punk rock videos and there are *punk rock* videos. What do you get when you mix one of the most bodacious live bands with a room full of bona fide whackos? You get this little lost gem, "Live at Napa State Mental

Hospital" featuring The Cramps.

This lo-fi, grainy footage is exactly what you'd expect to get from a performance recorded back in 1979. It's black and white, the images aren't crisp and there are only a few camera angles. This is a far cry from the more professional multi-camera shoots of today. However, it's that lack of all star quality that makes this DVD such a hit. You get the feeling that you are watching something special — almost illegal — as these inmates bounce and headbang



to Cramps classics like "What's Behind The Mask" and "TV Set." They look so happy to be climbing up on stage with Lux Interior although they're most

likely oblivious to what's going on around them. Even when they get in his way, Lux never raises his voice or his fist. It's certainly a sight to behold.

"Live at Napa State Mental Hospital" is a quick but enjoyable ride and even if you're not that big of a Cramps fan you'll fall in love with this footage. Except for maybe that Target Video copyright tag which runs through the middle of the screen. That's just plain annoying.

Uncle Leo

## Various Artists "Out of Focus, Vol 1" (Thick Records)

Back in the early 90s when punk was becoming more than just another blip on the radar screen, everybody wanted to start their own print zine and interview bands. Brothers Bob and Mike Byrne took a different route. Living in the suburbs of Chicago, they began taping shows and talking to bands on their handy VHS camera for a video zine titled "Out of Focus." More than 10 years later, their work has been remastered and rereleased on DVD.

Volume 1 features a bunch of great bands, including Green Day, Jawbreaker and some rare live footage of Sludgeworth, before they hit it big. Although the lead vocal audio is weak and the camera rarely stays in focus this is a very interesting DVD.

Sissy Sledgehammer