



**DEAD BOYS
LIVE AT CBGB 1977**

Out of the ashes of Cleveland's impossibly influential Rocket From the Tombs came Pere Ubu and the Dead Boys. Taking opposing strands of RFTT's DNA (a blend of high and low-brow punk and new-wave tendencies) and stylistically running away from each other, both Pere Ubu and the Dead Boys helped lay the foundation for numerous prehistoric alternative styles. At first blush the Dead Boys might seem the simpler of the two bands, but the group's blend of Detroit-style power rock with elements of glam rock and early metal was both prescient and deceptively seductive. Shot at CBGB in 1977, allegedly for an episode of "60 Minutes," *Live* is at least as compelling for the way it captures an unselfconscious look at late-'70s fashions and attitudes, as its portrayal of the band itself. Extras include revealing, though short, band interviews with Stiv, Cheetah and the rest of the gang, as well as a contemporary interview with CBGBs' Hilly Kristal. —
Allan Martin Kemler

MusicVideoDistributors.com

**GOLDFRAPP
WONDERFUL ELECTRIC: LIVE IN LONDON**

If Somerset house and Shepherd's Bush sound like slightly fantastic names for concert halls, it's nothing compared to the velour fancy of the Goldfrapp shows they've hosted. Those familiar with Allison Goldfrapp will be excited to comb through this DVD collecting two different live shows, tour documentaries and interviews—although nearing the three-hour mark, fan loyalty (and attention span) is likely to be tested. Those not already aware of Goldfrapp will probably puzzle over the smoky throated, heavily sequined Bernadette Peters-Björk amalgam until they've been disarmed by the varied tones of classy electropop at work. And, sure, electropop is like coffee these days, everyone's guzzling it, some people make it with no sense of quality control, and it hurts when it spills on your lap. To her credit, Goldfrapp takes it in different directions. While there's the obligatory tone of catty decadence on hand, rather than lingering on the bling-bling, the high-booted G-girl can jump from a Portishead-style makeout coo fest to vaudeville sass in a matter of songs. When they remake *Cabaret* and the Nazis are replaced by Homeland Security goons, Goldfrapp will probably be the type of music the protagonists will communicate with in the smoky clubs on stage. *Wonderful Electric* has something for everyone: Even if you're bored senseless by

Goldfrapp's music—and, despite my praise, I'd say I can understand how that might be possible—you'll still marvel at her artwork laced with Siberian huskies running through idyllic green hills. —Mike McKee

Mute.com

**ILÉ AIYÉ
THE HOUSE OF LIFE**

Originally released in 1989, *Ilé Aiyé* is David Byrne's look at Candomblé, the African spirit cult of the Bahia region of Brazil. The 50-minute film focuses on the religion's ceremonial dances, songs and customs, and offers a quiet critique of the Western worldview in the process. In opposition to strict moral duality, the Candomblé faithful embrace a continuum of human attributes as but one of many faces of the human disposition. This attitude is expressed through orishas, or gods who possess individuals, representing such psychological archetypes as warrior (Ogun), mother (Yemanjá), goddess of love (Oshun) and dispenser of justice (Shàngó). Granted, this film is best suited for ethnomusicologists, Afro-Cuban jazz enthusiasts and Talking Heads completists. Nevertheless, depending on how ignorant of other cultures you want to stay the rest of your life, it might be a good idea to go to your local art-house video retailer and check this one out. —
Allan Martin Kemler

Plexifilm.com

**JANDEK ON CORWOOD
A DOCUMENTARY FILM**

If you think about it, Jandek is the best/worst choice for a documentary film. On one hand, the curious Texas musician has released 33 albums in 26 years while cultivating an intensely reclusive personality and an equally intense cult following that likes to talk about him. On the other hand, the only concrete thing that is known about Jandek is that his music is released by a similarly obscure entity known as Corwood Industries. Director Chad Friedrichs and producer Paul Fehler manage to combine this seeming lack of information into a fascinating documentary that leaves viewers craving more. *Jandek on Corwood* combines sound bites from scads of interviews with musical luminaries such as Dr. Demento, Calvin Johnson and Richie Unterburger, with music from the film's subject. The result comes off as equal parts creepy, enthralling and, at times, amusing. —
Austin Ray

JandekOnCorwood.com

**SOUNDZ OF SPIRIT
A FILM BY JOSYLN ROSE LYONS**

You can tell by the creative spelling that this film was made by someone who loves hip hop, so much that they had to make a documentary about it. Setting out to explore the phenomenon of spirituality in hip hop, director Joslyn Rose Lyons analyzes the creative processes of some of the genre's more introspective mouthpieces. *SOS* features interviews with the likes of Andre 3000, Saul Williams, Del tha Funkee Homosapien, Common, Aceyalone, Jurassic 5, Dilated Peoples and legends like KRS-One and the Last Poets. While the variety of responses range from thought-provoking to vague, one definitely gets a feel for one of the genre's less secular inspirations. Covering all of the five elements of hip hop, and even the adopted stepchild (spoken word) with a montage of commentary from producers, DJs, breakers, writers, poets and MCs, *Soundz* lends an invitation to meditate in what KRS calls the "Temple of Hip Hop." A good number of artists with various styles are included in the lineup, although the majority fall suspiciously within West Coast boundaries. The underground connoisseur will no doubt find some gaps in the presence of significantly spiritual hip hop artists. On the other hand, the neo-soul fan will be delighted by input from newcomers like Goapele and Medusa. The production standards are higher than the cover art may suggest and it's easy to find yourself watching the credits roll with an urge to bust a freestyle. The DVD also comes with a soundtrack CD containing some goodies from noteworthy knowns and unknowns. —
Matthew McGlynn

UrbanWorksEnt.com