

CD REVIEWS

DVD REVIEWS

Viva Voce

The Heat Can Melt Your Brain

Minty Fresh

Viva Voce = The Faith Healers + ELO + Mates of State

This is borderline cool. The music can be spacious and light, eerie and tingly. Then sometimes it can veer towards too-cute oohing and aahing in a positively ABBA-esque fashion. Then sometimes it can trot out some nice melancholy and sadness. Unfortunately, the lyrics are pop-song lazy: not 'NSYNC bad, but Lenny Kravitz bad—clichés aplenty and lots of songs about love and such. As a physically beautiful husband-and-wife team, these guys should go on some kind of crime-spree bender and mix in some heavy drug use to illuminate the dark side that peeks its head out enough to be noticed on this album. And then they should have some pretty babies and name them in unusual ways. —Jesus Harold

The Zutons

Who Killed...The Zutons

Epic Records

The Zutons = The Greenhornes + blend of bands from the 20's, 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's

The Zutons are probably best described as a garage rock band that loves

the Squirrel Nut Zippers. The song structures are way disjointed on the first track, a Beatle-esque pop song that suddenly spazzes out at the end with all the instruments musically masturbating. The second track channels Stevie Wonder and George Clinton with soulful abandonment complete with cowbells and saxophones. "You Will You Won't" has the garage-type danceable pop of The Kingsmen, driven by blissful moptop vocals, handclaps, and powerful sing-along chorus. Cuban salsa pop is here, bluegrass folk, Gang of Four funk-punk, and leanings of big band all get their due by The Zutons, either through obvious samples or slight influences. The Zutons drive a stake through all the boring bands who bring nothing new or worthwhile to today's musical table. Hopefully, they won't kill themselves with all the musical risks they have taken.

—Keular7

KittyKat DirtNap

I Am A Robot. I Am Talking Like A Robot. I Am A Robot.

Wonka Vision Magazine

KittyKat DirtNap = Reggie and the Full Effect + OKGO + Dressy Bessy

KittyKat DirtNap was described in one review as "...Care Bears with uzi's, declaring war on Weezer island." After listening to them, I will tell you what they really are: bland and unoriginal. Their male/female vocals are cool and they're a bit more knotty and propulsive than most bands of the genre, but for the most part they're just another keyboard-driven, irony-adoring indie band obsessed with pun-happy, referential song titles. This album in particular has a parentheses theme;

"(If I Had A Purse I Would Carry) Breath Mints (In It Too)," "(Cookie Blocking) Java Scripts," "(Getting Caught Enjoying) Phil Collins," "(Hold Me Closer) Tony Danza," "Minivan (Halen)," "(Lolly) Gagger" and "Theme (Song)," to name a few. I think I heard this done better in 1994 by a band called Dinosaur Jr. Go buy that album, not this one.

—Tony Hell

MXPX

B-MOVIE

Side One Dummy

At first this DVD entertained. That lasted about as long as my first sexual experience. Within minutes I became tired of this DVD. I realized it for what it truly was, supercilious crap. It reminded me of monkeys at a salad bar—entirely self-serving and haphazard. The entire thing seemed like one big gay ad. Even the little band member tour bus pranks were planned out and lacked any spontaneity. Here's a clue for the band courtesy of myself: if you sneak into a sleeping band mate's bunk and pinch his nipples REALLY hard and he doesn't wake up, that isn't funny. It's homoerotic. The only actually funny part in the whole thing (and I don't think it was meant to be) is in the extras section titled "Haircuts." This highlights the band at different hair salons getting their locks died and coifed.

PUNK ROCK!!!! —Alex Woodruff

Dead Boys

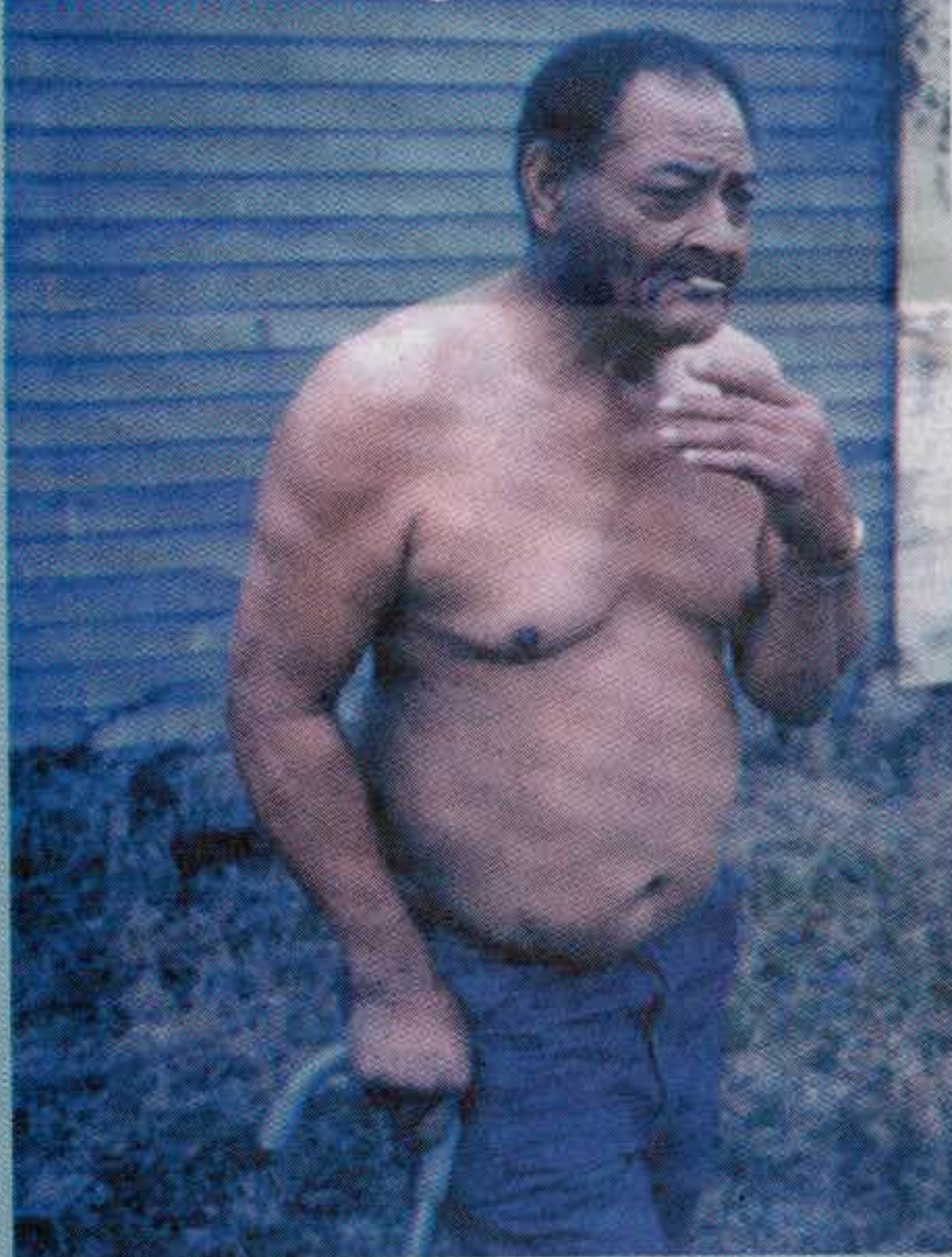
Live! At CBGB 1977

Music Video Distributors

Wow, two Dead Boys-related items in one month! While live videos never have the same feel as the actual show, they do a fair job of capturing a particular moment in history. Which is good because it's the closest most of us will ever get to witnessing an actual Dead Boys show (they broke up before I was even in diapers). With this newly released DVD, the live fury of the Dead Boys seems to come across fairly well but with some grainy, messy footage here and there. Stiv Bators' over-the-top stage antics are really funny and the band's energy never lets up from start to finish. The live show itself is great, but it's the bonus features that really make this package worthwhile. Not only do we get hilarious footage of opening act Steel Tips, but current interviews with Cheetah Chrome and CBGB owner Hilly Crystal.

—Jared Soper

Junior Kimbrough



Various Artists

Sunday Nights: The Songs Of Junior Kimbrough

Fat Possum Records

Sunday Nights = Fat Possum Records + Narnack Records + potpourri

While most tribute albums are just a sick joke played by some shoddy record label on an unsuspecting fanbase, this one remarkably stands out from the rest of the pack. The artists on this compilation have not only taken utmost care in reworking the hypnotic, droning blues songs of Junior Kimbrough, but all are able to do it in a manner that is completely original, each making them their own songs (including, noticeably, Iggy and the Stooges, Spiritualized, Mark Lanegan, Fiery Furnaces and The Ponys). And that says something not only about the artists on *Sunday Nights*, but about Junior Kimbrough himself, in that these songs are able to transcend the barriers of different genres and multiple generations, unifying them as a collective audience. Whether or not Junior knew what an accomplishment he'd made before he died of a stroke in 1998, his fans obviously did. —Jared Soper