



**THE MOST GIGANTIC LYING MOUTH OF ALL TIME** (W.A.S.T.E. PRODUCTS LTD.)

So Radiohead almost had their own TV show, but then the funding was cut at the last second, after they'd made four episodes already. All four episodes are presented together for this DVD. They consist of a few creepy animated films with a Radiohead soundtrack, haphazard colors and images, some words flashing across the screen, and Thom Yorke giggling through an interview. Some of it is nice and pretty. Some of it is stupid and bad. *Lying Mouth* comes off not unlike MTV's *Liquid Television*, or the kind of thing projected on the wall at a rave. *Lying Mouth* gets a solid B—a treat for hysterical Radiohead fans, but even those types are unlikely to watch this more than once. MEG VAN HUYGEN



**NASHVILLE REBEL**  
**Jay Sheridan** (BEAR FAMILY)

The late Waylon Jennings left a brilliant legacy of uncompromising outlaw country behind, but he doesn't rebel much in this 1966 star vehicle. He plays a humble, small-town country singer ("I don't even have a necktie!") who suddenly becomes a star and loses everything he holds dear when the lure of the Grand Ole Opry takes him too far from home. No acting is required of our hero, but Jennings—a slick, handsome cat—stops the hokum cold whenever he sings hits like "Green River" and the classic title tune. Otherwise, this is standard Nashville star-machine stuff, packed with cameos from hillbillies like Porter Wagoner, Loretta Lynn and Tex Ritter. Tex Ritter? And that's when I woke up. FRED BELDIN



**DOTTIE GETS SPANKED**  
**Todd Haynes** (ZENITH)

After achieving celebrity status with his 1991 movie *Poison*, Todd Haynes wrote and directed this short film, inspired by his college readings of Freud and his childhood love for Lucille Ball. It's 1965, and seven-year-old Steven, whose taste in saddle shoes gets him called a "feminino" at school, loves *The Dottie Show* (to the annoyance of his football-fan dad). He's also



**THE MAGIC SUN**  
**Phill Niblock** (ATAVISTIC)

This striking non-linear film captures Sun Ra and his Arkestra in free flight. Composed of high-contrast monochromatic images, this is a skittish, moody work accompanied by a soundtrack culled from "Saturn" sessions—all quintessentially difficult Ra compositions. A jittery, high-strung rhythm section paces quietly in the background while a series of musical arguments between brass and keys takes center stage, climaxing in a fluttering, discordant gasp. Director Phill Niblock shoots the players in stark relief and extreme close-up, a ghostly effect that eventually abstracts into vibrating streaks of blinding white over deep black space. Niblock's visual experiment hits only one note, but at fourteen minutes, doesn't have a chance to tire, and the Arkestra's vibrant, celestial swing stays airborne.

Better still are the complementary photo galleries of the Arkestra circa 1965, each narrated with rare audiotape of recitations from Sun Ra and selected messengers. The vintage images include both candid and posed shots of Arkestra members during their New York residency, clad in Ra-issue space clothes, looking "far out, in a cool manner."

secretly fascinated by the spankings other kids get. A visit to the set of *The Dottie Show* brings Steven's twin obsessions into new focus. Not the campy romp the packaging suggests, *Dottie Gets Spanked* offers a witty but disquieting look at the not-so-innocent undertow of childhood that merits viewing with Hayes' better-known work. Unfortunately the co-feature, *He Was Once*, is nowhere near as effective. MARK DEMING

**THE RESIDENTS:**  
**Icky Flix** (MUSIC VIDEO DISTRIBUTORS)

After three decades of artistic statements and music-making, avant-garde conceptual artists and aural eye-cons the Residents still confuse first-time listeners while inspiring veteran fans to pump their freak-loving fists. The seventeen music videos comprising *Icky Flix* span the band's entire career of audio-visual experiments. A bonus re-recording of each original song is included, giving the viewer the rare option to choose between the old or new soundtrack. While not a stellar introduction for those unfamiliar with the Residents' work, *Icky Flix* will confirm what fans already know: When the Residents aren't busy trying to reinvent the wheel, they still bring home the bacon. They're probably looking for a way to reinvent that too. ANDREA HEIMER

**BILL HICKS LIVE:**  
**Satirist, Social Critic, Stand-Up Comedian** (RYKOBSO)

Comedian Bill Hicks once described his act as "Noam Chomsky with dick jokes." With the exception of Richard Pryor, Hicks was the most corrosively funny comic to emerge since Lenny Bruce. Though Hicks succumbed to cancer in 1994, his verbal tirades on sex, drugs and the American political still ring true. *Bill Hicks Live: Satirist, Social Critic, Stand-Up Comedian* collects three different stand-up sets on one DVD, along with a fine documentary on Hicks (*It's Just a Ride*). If you're unfamiliar with his work, this is the best place to get acquainted. Just be careful around Goat Boy. MARK DEMING

"I and my musicians are musical astronauts. We sail the galaxy through the medium of sound, and take our audience with us whether they want to go or not."  
— Sun Ra