

time as well - this DVD and Boyd's book are the definitive "I was there" documents of the 60's folk scene, until someone pulls a genie out of a bottle.

#### MC5: KICK OUT THE JAMS

- a film by Leni Sinclair and Cary Loren  
(Music Video Distributors)

The definitive and greatest MC5 documentary film was made a couple of years back and featured Wayne Kramer driving around Detroit and Ann Arbor showing the old haunts, as well as great interviews with the other surviving members of the band, plus some vintage interviews with Rob Tyner and Fred Smith and tons of amazing live footage from all sort of venues and festivals. Simply amazing, it was called MC5: A True Testimonial and made the rounds at film festivals. Then, just as it was ready to come out on DVD, the powers that be stopped it. So, we're now left with this labor of love using late 60's Super-8 film shot by John's wife (at the time) and now reconfigured for the modern age by Cary Loren of Destroy All Monsters. The Super-8 footage was silent, so they've added in sound from whatever concert source they had available - so what you're seeing and what you're hearing doesn't always match up. In other words - you might be watching them play one song from concert X and hearing another song from concert Y. I'm sure this was put together with good intentions, but I'd say it's for diehards only. When A True Testimonial finally sees the light of day, then we can really Kick Out The Jams, Brothers and Sisters!

#### VALLEY RIVER: GREEN ON RED - LIVE AT THE RIALTO 9/04/05 (Brinkfilm)

The Cacavas/Watson/Stuart/Prophet line up of Green On Red hadn't played together in nearly 20 years and by all accounts, it didn't seem like it would ever happen. One band member wasn't talking to another one, one member didn't respect another member, and so on. But when original drummer Alex MacNicol (who hadn't been part of any band or music scene in years) passed away suddenly, out of the blue - it seemed to mellow out the various differences between other band members and they agreed to gather together in their original hometown of Tucson for one last go around. Needless to say, it was a loose, but very spirited performance as a tribute to a fallen comrade and (as corny as this sounds), really a tribute to themselves. Although I'm known as the world's biggest Dream Syndicate fan, for me, Green On Red were a very close second during the 1980's. It was like being both a Beatles and a Stones fan (during the '60's) - It was hard to say which one is "better." Personally, I think their best album



is Gravity Talks - the energy of Dan's vocals and his lyrics were on par with the best Dylan (or Kerouac) words. Cacavas to me, was like Ray in the Doors - that keyboard sound driving the whole thing along in such a unique way. Having heard Cacavas play on other people's records: Leaving Trains, Dream Syndicate and others, you KNOW his sound the minute you hear it. When Prophet came along for Gas Food Lodging (another great record, but more self-conscious at times than Gravity Talks - which was balls to the wall on every level), the band both gained and lost something. Chuck was an amazing talent in his own right and really beefed up the guitar power of the band - but over the next few albums - Cacavas somehow got lost in the shuffle. By the final album Killer Inside Me with the Cacavas/Watson/Stuart/Prophet lineup the band sounded bloated and dead. So, as much of a drag as it was, when they reappeared without Cacavas and Watson a couple of years later - with the Green On Red album "Here Come The Snakes," Chuck and Dan really started great. After that, for me, generally, the less said about the next couple of Green On Red albums - the better. Sure, they had their moments, but they were missing the Cacavas juice and the Watson soul (although Chris went on to make great solo albums on his own - surprisingly playing guitar and not keys and Jack popped out a couple of groovy solo discs himself). Anyway, back to the modern day - the band had so much fun at this reunion, they decided to take the show on the road to Europe and played a series of tight shows, which probably would have resulted in a better DVD (having seen some footage of the European tour), but this one from Tucson is what we've got - and it's fitting tribute, given the Boys Are Back In Town.

-Pat Thomas