

# Bangladesh: Harrison gets plug by with help from friends

## George Harrison & Friends

**The Concert for Bangladesh**  
Apple-Rhino | Warner

Before *Band-Aid* and *Live Aid* and *Live 8*, before *Rock for Choice* and *Rock the Vote*, before there was a benefit gig for every disease and disaster, there was *The Concert for Bangladesh*. Filmed on Aug. 1, 1971 at Madison Square Garden, this groundbreaking gig — George Harrison's first major post-Beatles show — was held to raise funds for refugees from war-torn, flood-ravaged East Pakistan. And it wrote benefit-concert rules that are still followed today. There was the all-star lineup — a scraggly bearded George gets by with more than a little help from friends like Ringo Starr, Billy Preston, Leon Russell, Badfinger and even a strung-out Eric Clapton, whose heroin addiction almost kept him from making the gig. There was the set list of classic hits (*My Sweet Lord*, *Here Comes the Sun*, *While My Guitar Gently Weeps*, *Something*) and set-padding jams (*Jumpin' Jack Flash*, *Young Blood*). There was the superstar guest spot from Bob Dylan, who came out of seclusion to deliver stirring versions of *A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall*, *It Takes a Lot to Laugh, It Takes a Train to Cry*, *Blowin' in the Wind* and *Just Like a Woman*. There was the theme song — Harrison's *Bangla Desh*. There was the patience-trying opening act — 20 minutes of Ravi Shankar rockin' the sitar. There was a controversy about how much of the money raised made it to the intended recipients. And naturally, there was a 99-minute movie — finally available on DVD in a two-disc set and a limited-edition box. Both include the full film, along with a 45-minute documentary featuring interviews with most of the surviving participants, a trio of unreleased cuts (including a wicked version of Dylan's *Love Minus Zero / No Limit*), and a host of featurettes on the making of the film, the album and more. The deluxe box also includes a 60-page book of liner notes, anecdotes and photos, 10 postcards, a gig poster, an Apple sticker and handwritten lyrics to *Bangla Desh*.

★★★★

## Audioslave

**Live in Cuba**  
Epic | Sony  
BMG

Back in May, supergroup Audioslave became the first American rock band to per-



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form in Cuba since Castro assumed control. Which certainly makes this live DVD of the event something of a historical document — even if it doesn't qualify as the ultimate Audioslave video. Don't blame the band; big-lunged former Soundgarden frontman Chris Cornell and the boys from Rage Against the Machine hold up their end of the bargain during the 90-minute set, which blends their own cuts (*Cochise*, *Set It Off*, *Your Time Has Come*) with Soundgarden hits (*Spoonman*, *Black Hole Sun*) and Rage faves (*Bulls on Parade*, *Sleep Now in the Fire*). It's the technical end of things that lets

down the side; the outdoor gig at the magnificently named Anti-Imperialist Plaza was delayed by sound problems, the lighting is inconsistent, the cinematography is pedestrian and a couple of segments on our DVD were alarmingly out of synch. On the plus side, the 38-minute travelogue of the band visiting historic landmarks and meeting Cubans is way more watchable than the usual making-of bumpf. Then again, when your bonus footage gives your main event a run for the money, that's not necessarily a selling point.

★★★

## Mötley Crüe

**Carnival of Sins: Live**  
Clear Channel | Universal

Mötley Crüe aren't the first band to stage a rock 'n' roll circus. And they sure aren't the first bunch of has-beens to bury the hatchet and reunite for one more cash-in tour. But as always, what the boys lack in originality, they more than make up for with enthusiasm and excess. *Carnival of Sins*, a two-disc live DVD shot in Michigan during their latest comeback tour, is over the top in almost every way imaginable. First there's the show itself, which is over two hours long, with 24 Crüe classics including *Shout at the Devil*, *Too Fast For Love*, *Looks That Kill*, *Live Wire*, *Girls Girls Girls*, *Wild Side* and *Dr. Feelgood*. Then there's the big-top set and theatrical production, which includes plenty of the usual flames, smoke, explosions and fireworks — along with midgets, acrobats, evil clowns, stilt walkers, fire breathers, unicyclists, and a drum solo in which Tommy Lee flies around the arena on wires playing junk-shop percussion on rigs suspended from the ceiling. Naturally, since it's a Crüe show, there's also plenty of cursing, boozing, smoking, scantily clad dancers, girl-on-girl action and more boos



than your average session of Parliament. Finally, there's the package itself, which comes with an extra disc of bonus features, including the half-hour documentary *Inside the Big Top*, a featurette on pyrotechnics, footage of a backstage meet-and-greet, a claymation disaster-movie parody, two music videos and more. If it's true that nothing succeeds like excess, Mötley Crüe fans can't lose with *Carnival of Sins*.

★★★1/2

## Thunders, Kane & Nolan

**You Can't Put Your Arms Around a Memory**  
MVD

This 1987 L.A. club gig was perhaps the first time — and presumably the last time — that former New York Dolls guitarist Johnny Thunders, drummer Jerry Nolan and bassist Arthur (Killer) Kane played together after the band imploded in the '70s.



But if you're expecting them to focus on the old days, forget it. This is first and foremost a Johnny Thunders show — he starts and finishes with *Pipeline*, does Heartbreakers

tunes like *Too Much Junkie Business* and *Born Too Loose*, tosses in a mini-acoustic solo set of covers like *Eve of Destruction* and *Play With Fire*, and pads out the 80-minute set with jams like *Green Onions*, *In the Midnight Hour* and *Little Queenie*. Of course, as Thunders gigs go, it's a winner — mostly because he's straight enough to remember the tunes. And that makes this DVD a worthwhile purchase — even if it is a single-camera shoot and you can barely see Kane hiding at the back of the stage.

★★★1/2

