



The Eagles

SCREEN TEST

DVDs in Review

Eagles
Live in Melbourne
(WSM)



Way back when, the Eagles epitomized California's soft-rock sound.

But over the past several years the band has become a slick nostalgia act (and a fat cash cow) geared mostly toward baby boomers who like to hear their hits precisely played, so that they can sing along. This video, which includes almost three hours of high-quality concert footage, allows them to do just that.

SCENE STEALER: Thank heavens for the wacky Joe Walsh, the wildcard who leavens the



Eagles' super-seriousness with guitar workouts like "Funk #49," "Rocky Mountain Way," and "Life in the Fast Lane." Yet, oddly, the band lets Stuart Smith handle the hallowed lead break on "One of These Nights."

Lee Ritenour
Overtime (Eagle)



Lee Ritenour, whose nickname is Captain Fingers, is a total monster; he's also one of the forefathers of smooth jazz and fusion, as well as a session dude with unassailable cred. Lately, though, Ritenour has been channeling Wes Montgomery.

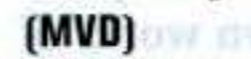


This double-disc set—which captures a recent live performance at a Burbank sound studio and features narrative interviews with Ritenour himself—is as elegantly recorded as it is played.

SCENE STEALER: Ritenour tackles "Captain Fingers," his tricky, funky, fusiony signature tune. This requires everyone in the band, especially electric bassist Melvin Davis, to elevate his own game.

Michael Schenker Group
Live in Tokyo 1997

(MVD)



"Welcome to the Michael Schenker



story," says singer David Van Landung, and off we go on a 30-song musical rundown of the embattled guitarist's aural history, from his beginnings with UFO and the Scorpions to his later work with MSG, the McAuley Schenker Group, and Contraband. Filmed in Tokyo (where else?) in 1997.

SCENE STEALER: Poor video quality diminishes the visual potency of Schenker's playing. His best work—on songs like "Doctor Doctor" and "Rock Bottom"—certainly deserves better treatment.

Prong

The Vault
(Locomotive)



Long overlooked in the world of heavy metal, the on-again, off-again quartet Prong was (and still is, in many ways) one of the major engines behind the entire thrash movement. Led by frontman and guitar player Tommy Victor and featuring any one of a number of second axemen, the band have always been rulebreakers, choosing to blend chugging thrash with elements of punk, industrial, and electronica. Which, strangely, works rather well for them. The four hours of mainly live music on these two DVDs center on Victor's hyperactive riffing and straight-up decibel heaviness.

SCENE STEALER: Victor's guitar work, reminiscent of the low-end, no-frills riffing of Killing Joke, is best heard live, on tunes like "Unconditional" and "Snap Your Fingers, Snap Your Neck." —BOB GULLA



EXTRAS

Rockers:
25th Anniversary Edition (MVD)



Reggae might be the sound of ganja and dreadlocks, but it's also the music of guitar and melody, a fact evidenced by the *irie* soundtrack to *Rockers*, perhaps the greatest of all reggae pics.

SOD
20 Years of Dysfunction
(Megaforce)



Underground thrash icons SOD have existed for years solely to make music for their legions of grisly thrash

fans, and this three-hour set—an impressive career artifact that splices together 20 years' worth of bootleg footage—is the ultimate tribute to its fans. Includes audio for the *Pussywhipped* bootleg.

Various Artists
Give 'em the Boot (Hellcat)



A stylish live-video compilation from Tim Armstrong and his gritty roster of Hellcat artists. The film, *Hellcat* chic in grainy black-and-white, puts punk guitar at center stage with work from Armstrong and Joe Strummer, plus hellbilly bands like Horrorpops and Nekromantix.

Violent Femmes
Permanent Record
(Rhino/Slash)



Giddy 1991 gig in a scorching-hot Virginia venue. The video is filmed from multiple angles but with rather poor clarity, a flaw that seems to fit the vibe as the trio bangs out "Add It Up," "Kiss Off," and, of course, "Blister in the Sun."

—BG

