

ideal, there is much to enjoy in this generally pleasing mounting of a seldom-performed work, presented here in DTS, Dolby Digital 5.1, and LPCM stereo. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (J. Reed)

### Ian Hunter and the Rant Band: Just Another Night

★★★

(2004) 115 min. DVD: \$19.95. Music Video Distributors (avail. from most distributors). Color cover.

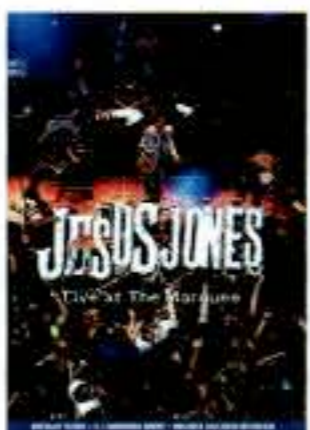


Former frontman for 1970s glam rock band Mott the Hoople turned solo artist Ian Hunter performs a generous 21-song set before an appreciative audience in this May 2004 concert filmed at the Astoria in London. Backed by a solid band (including Badfinger co-founder Mick Ralphs and youngblood Andy York on guitars), Hunter serves up such classic Hoople fare as "Roll Away the Stone," "Rock 'n' Roll Queen," "I Wish I Was Your Mother," "All the Way From Memphis" (joined by Queen's Brian May on guitar), and the band's signature hit, "All the Young Dudes" (with Def Leppard's Joe Elliott on guest vocals), as well as a generous sampling of Hunter solo gems, including "Once Bitten, Twice Shy," "The Truth, The Whole Truth, Nuthin' But the Truth," and "Irene Wilde." Although the voice has gone a bit south, Hunter proves here that he can still deliver the goods four decades on—playing guitar, harmonica, and piano—with newer songs such as "Knees of My Heart" ("If you're a songwriter, you have to write one for the wife now and again.") off 2001's *Rant*. The wall of guitar sound comes across well on this DVD, which features Dolby Digital 5.1 and stereo sound, as well as a 38-minute interview with Hunter, a Brit transplant who talks about living in Connecticut post-9/11 and late Hoople bandmate Mick Ronson. Recommended. Aud: P. (R. Pitman)

### Jesus Jones: Live at the Marquee

★★★

(2002) 97 min. DVD: \$19.95. Music Video Distributors (avail. from most distributors). Color cover.



Tagged with the one-hit wonder label for their chartbusting "Right Here, Right Now," off their 1991 second album *Doubt*, techno-pop band Jesus Jones, fronted by lead singer Mike Edwards, performs a 25-song set at London's Marquee in this November 2002 concert. On earlier songs such as "International Bright Young Thing," "Real Real Real," and the aforementioned smash single, the quintet finds a solid groove with its driving-guitar-and-synth sound, and even shines on some of the more recent tunes—such as the catchy, hook-laden "Message" off 2001's *London*. Ultimately, however, Jesus Jones mines a fairly

narrow musical vein (and none too deeply at that), and while the band seems unflaggingly energetic, the concert starts to feel fairly repetitive well before the 60-minute mark. Presented in Dolby Digital 5.1 sound, the disc also features a 53-minute interview with the band that is, unfortunately, plagued by background machine noise. Not a necessary purchase. Aud: P. (R. Pitman)

### Jimi Hendrix: Live at Woodstock

★★★1/2

(2005) 2 discs. 99 min. DVD: \$19.98. Universal Music & Video (avail. from most distributors). Color cover.



Hendrix fans rejoice: here's the full Jimi from the iconic 1969 Woodstock music festival—14 songs presented in their original order of performance totaling more than 80 minutes. Previously available only in an hour-shy version, this "definitive 2 DVD collection" features never-before-seen versions of "Message to Love," "Lover Man," "Foxy Lady," and "Spanish Castle Magic," as well as Hendrix classics such as "Purple Haze," "Fire," "Voodoo Child," and his now-legendary rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner," backed by his Gypsy Sons & Rainbows band. Opening with a segment offering a retrospective look at "The Road to Woodstock," featuring Woodstock promoter Michael Lang and various band members, *Jimi Hendrix: Live at Woodstock* serves up staggering evidence (if any were needed) that Hendrix was and perhaps will always be the world's greatest rock guitarist, especially during a brilliant five-minute jam simply called "Woodstock Improvisation," a rapid-fire tour of the entire fret-board sandwiched in between songs during an uninterrupted half-hour sonic blast. If viewers are only familiar with Hendrix's set from Michael Wadleigh's classic 1970 film *Woodstock* (which featured a mere 10 minutes in the original and an added five in the "director's cut"), they owe it to themselves to check out this remarkable showcase filmed a little over a year before Hendrix's death. Presented in crystal clear DTS, Dolby Digital 5.0 and stereo, DVD extras include a second disc offering a black-and-white subpar videotape shot version of the set (intercut with some of the original color footage, and featuring the bonus song "Hear My Train A Comin'"), a seven-minute Hendrix press conference filmed two weeks after Woodstock, a pair of featurettes with band members and the recording engineer for the festival, and a booklet. Highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (R. Pitman)

### Legends of Gospel in Concert

★★★  
(2005) 2 discs. 125 min. DVD: \$24.95. Monterey Video (avail. from most distributors). Color cover. ISBN: 1-56994-675-2.

Like much non-classical American music,

gospel had its roots in Africa before making its way via slave ships to North America, where the call and response tradition was honed by slaves laboring in the fields. In fact, the church provided the only real sanctuary for these beleaguered souls, and it was here that the sound of gospel was nurtured before eventually being codified in the 20th century by the Rev. Thomas Dorsey, the source of virtually every enduring feature of the art form (all of which is recounted in the "history of gospel" text included on this DVD). Unlike the staid hymns heard in many white churches, gospel music is joyful and unbound; simply put, it rocks. Witness the Rev. James Cleveland, one of the giants in the field. His "Can't Nobody Do Me Like Jesus" lasts for more than 13 minutes, with Cleveland stoking the band and the crowd at Oakland's Paramount Theatre until the whole auditorium fairly takes off in a foot-stomping, hand-clapping, soul-searing frenzy. Cleveland's 30-minute set is the highlight of this double disc set, but other performances are notable as well: the Walter Hawkins Singers (whose "Oh Happy Day" was a huge hit when older brother Edwin led the troupe) soar, the Mighty Clouds of Joy come on like a Philly soul group, Shirley Caesar makes like a sanctified Gladys Knight, and the Clark Sisters, testifying that "Jesus is the baddest man in town," are wondrous to behold. Granted, the sound and visuals on these archival performances are not topnotch, but God is most definitely in the house. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (S. Graham)



### Les Troyens

★★★★  
(2003) 3 discs. 312 min. In French w/English subtitles. DVD: \$52.98 (booklet included). BBC Opus Arte (dist. by Naxos of America). Color cover.



Hector Berlioz's monumental five-act lyric tragedy based on Virgil's *Aeneid*, composed in 1856-58 but not performed in full form until 1890, depicts the fall of Troy to the Greek forces and refugee Aeneas' dalliance with Queen Dido at Carthage before a divine injunction compels him to abandon her and sail to Italy, where his descendants would eventually found Rome. While there have been two previous DVD issues—the most recent a Salzburg Festival performance conducted by Sylvain Cambreling (see VL-7/03)—this 2003 production, mounted at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris in connection with the 200th anniversary of Berlioz's birth, is superlative in every respect. Sir John Eliot Gardiner conducts with passion and precision, ever sensitive to the score's varied moods, and his original-instrument band is wonderfully clear and incisive. The staging by Yannis Kokkos is elegant, with a