

BANDS ON FILM

In the '60s and '70s many bands, for better or worse, began to foray into the world of film. Perhaps most remembered are those many lovable Beatles movies, from *A Hard Day's Night* to *Let It Be*. The Who's rock opera, *Tommy*, was made into a psychedelic feature film starring Roger Daltrey. Even the Monkees thought it a good idea to jump on board by making a drugged out concept film for all of their squeaky clean teenage fans with *Head*. Among the scripted band films of the day were documentaries on individual bands' tours, and we all remember that famous split-screen from the documentary *Woodstock*.

Later on in 1980, The Clash helped to mix the genres of band docs and scripted films in *Rude Boy*, a semi-documentary featuring actual live footage plus a loose storyline and fictional characters. And we can't leave out the advent of MTV and eventual music video craze. Soon collections of music videos could be purchased on VHS with tour footage or entire concerts on film, which are commonplace today and released primarily to both appease and encourage super fans—if you can't think of any such video compilations I give you two syllables: U2.

Which brings us to now. This week I thought I'd honor the sometimes amazing, sometimes laughable history of bands on film. There is a variety of films coming out—feature flicks, DVDs of band antics, tour DVDs, biographical documentaries and good ol' music videos. Thanks to those crazy musicians and the pop-

Awesome was shot by "a bunch of untrained camera operators. But that gives the film sincerity. The people that shot it were feeling it."

Adam Yauch's Oscilloscope Films has had the film idea in the works for quite some time, finally attracting head of the theatrical division at THINKFilm, Mark Urman. As fans of both the band and the film, THINK decided to take on this first ever concert film shot entirely by audience members. The film release coincides with Beastie Boys compilation *Solid Gold Hits*, released by Capitol Records earlier this month. Although *Awesome* is set for national release in spring of 2006 it will be shown at various film festivals until then. Catch it if you can, otherwise be prepared to see the most personal portrayal of the Beastie Boys live show experience this Spring.

PIEBALD

Killa Bees And Killa Bros

You officially have permission to give Piebald a giant hug for this one. The hilarious, witty and downright rockin' Piebald have released a two-disc set—DVD and B-sides CD—that is more fun than almost any band DVD I've seen. I'm sure it helps your enthusiasm to be a major Piebald fan like me, but the DVD's live footage and tour antics are edited with perfect balance. For one thing, the DVD isn't too long—a mistake so many bands make, and let's be honest, even if they're



hella

HELLA

Concentration Face

The freak-out rock duo Hella recently released their debut DVD *Concentration Face* along with a new EP titled *Homeboy*. The DVD is a compilation of various sets on the band's recent Japanese tour along with some shows stateside. Its off-kilter editing works to parallel and intensify the craziness that is Hella live. *Concentration Face* is an exciting film for Hella devotees and newbies alike. Be sure to check out this one, if you haven't had the chance to get your face rocked off by Hella in person, *Concentration Face* gets you dangerously close.

VARIOUS ARTISTS

Assemblage V1.0

The *Assemblage* is a compilation of music videos from 20 bands and 16 record labels spanning today's independent music. The DVD is being released by media production group and record label Grey Twelve Productions as a "total artistic package" instead of a standard grouping of music videos. The bands on *Assemblage V 1.0* range from D.C. art rockers The Dismemberment Plan to neo-hardcore group Thursday. All videos possess their own artistic flair and personality but are arranged in a way that provides a unique continuity. The Ultimate Fakebook's "Inside Me, Inside You" is followed by Rainer Maria's "Ears Ring." The Weakerthans' "Watermark" seems to easily make the transition to Thursday's aggressive "Cross Out The Eyes." And the beauty of this compilation is the fact that most of the videos featured did not receive airtime on large outlets like MTV, meaning you're almost guaranteed to see a band you've never seen a video for or a song you never even knew had one.

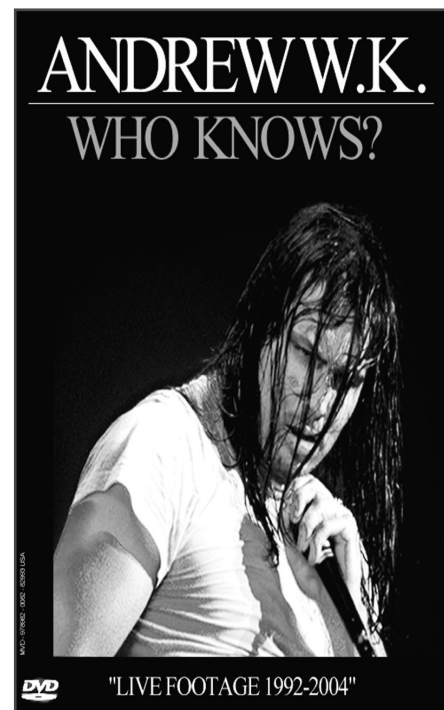
ANDREW W. K.

Who Knows?

Remember that big sweaty dude who used to swing his long hair around and invite the entire audience onstage? Remember the party anthems that had everyone raising their rock fists and chanting along with cult-like devotion and intensity? His name was Andrew W.K. and the year was 2000. Now a familiar face on Warped Tours and party mixes, Andrew W.K.

was catapulted into rock stardom with frightening intensity. But despite his international fan base, it seems Andrew W.K. appeared out of nowhere and has remained relatively mysterious and oddly devoted to his uniform of unwashed hair, jeans and a white T-shirt. Thankfully, Music Video Distributors are putting out *Andrew W.K.: Who Knows*, a documentary of the man's meteoric rise to "the king of party music" and the whirlwind of fame he has experienced over the last four years.

The DVD is not simply tour footage and live shows, but also features various interviews and is narrated by Andrew W.K. himself, who views the venture as an artwork in and of itself. He has been quoted as saying, "I must say, once again, that the process of making this DVD has been a fast-forming turning point for me and I already consider this DVD release to be as important to me as any other release I've done...What a wonderful adventure this has been so far. I had no idea it would turn out to be such a powerful time." And just as his albums and live persona demonstrate, his enthusiasm is high. *Who Knows?* will give you the chance to rock out, be wildly entertained and discover just who this Andrew W.K. character is anyway.



"LIVE FOOTAGE 1992-2004"



beastie boys

hungry public of the '60s, we get to appreciate the music of our favorite rock stars and experience a whole new kind of envy of their unmitigated coolness.

BEASTIE BOYS

*Awesome: I F**Kin' Shot That!*

The Beastie Boys never seem to stop. Just when you think you won't be hearing from them for a while, B-Boys come back and make it with the freak freak (sorry, couldn't help it). This time around, the Beasties are appearing in their first feature theatrical film, and of course, there's a catch. The film is directed by honorary Beastie Nathaniel Hornblower and produced by Nathaniel Hornblower and Jon Doran, but is shot entirely by fans. On October 9, 2004 the Beastie Boys passed out 50 cameras to audience members at their sold-out Madison Square Garden show. The result is a complete live performance shot from 50 different perspectives. Beastie Boys' Adam Yauch explained

your fave, hours of unedited footage quickly exceeds fandom and begins to venture into obsessionville. Instead, Piebald have taken clips from various shows across Europe and the United States and thrown in a healthy mix of outtakes. Guitarist/vocalist Aaron Stuart gives a most entertaining tour of Piebald's studio along with a look into the sessions for *All Ears*, *All Eyes*, *All The Time*. The film delivers on laughs, nostalgia and of course rock while providing insight into just what we love about Piebald—check out the series of gut-bustingly hilarious cowbell footage set to live versions of "The Stalker."

The DVD acts as the primer for a "killa" B-sides CD featuring acoustic versions, first recordings and songs that never even made it onto the albums. After you're finished laughing your ass off, Piebald are kind enough to let you in on tracks recorded in, as vocalist/guitarist Travis Shettel puts it, "studios, living rooms, bedrooms and even bathrooms." So throw some love Piebald's way for throwing us a ton of fan love (seriously, the DVD book features thank-you notes from each band member) with a sweet DVD set and 12 years of rockin'!