

# DVD REVIEWS



## ANDREW W.K. *Who Knows?*

Wonka Vision loves Andrew W.K., but it wouldn't be fair to recommend purchasing this concert flick—culled from live performances

filmed between 2000 and 2004—unless you're a diehard fan, or like to party, and party hard. There's no debating W.K.'s charisma, and his live performances are non-stop intensity. But even the diehards can't deny that W.K. has settled on a songwriting template (thrashing guitars, punkish bass, classically influenced keyboards, and fist-in-the-air choruses) and overused it, which causes many of the songs to sound the same. I found myself fast-forwarding through the live footage in order to watch the strange horror film interludes (a la *The Ring* and *The Blair Witch Project*) tossed in between songs. I think I'd rather toss in one of W.K.'s CDs at a kegger than watch this musical fireworks display on my puny television.

[MVD, mvd2b.com] *Chip Midnight*



## NORTH AWESOMETON BEARS

North Awesometon Bears is an inexplicably bad movie—and not in a good way. It's self-aware and tries to be quirky, but the puerile

jokes aren't funny. This is worse than the best *Saved by the Bell* episode. The movie takes place in New Jersey and follows the adventures of high school kids over the course of two days. Courtney and Jason are dating, and then she dumps him because he picks his nose. The characters all speak in monotone to show how hackneyed they are. There is a talking pizza and sun, an alien, a Booger Fairy bear, a gay Dracula, a Tourettes puppet dad who repeatedly yells the word "panties," and some really amateur editing and shooting. The film has no structured plot, only inane ramblings. At least they used a nice camera and the packaging is satisfactory, but c'mon, not just anybody should be allowed to make a movie.

[NJFilmcore, njfilmcore.com] *Garin Pirnia*



## REFUSED *Refused Are Fucking Dead*

Surely many are on the edge of their seats for the first legitimate full-length Refused DVD. Even after being "fucking dead" for

a number of years, the Swedish band's fervent fan base is still equal to none. Lucky for them, filmmaker Kristofer Steen has delivered one of the most ambitious DVDs since Fugazi's *Instrument*. It's a delightfully arty and oftentimes beautiful film that uses deliberately panned shots of city skylines and country sides and intersperses them with insightful interviews and razor sharp live footage. The excellent sounding live footage not only brings out the truly awe-inspiring drumming of David Sandstrom, it also sheds light on the weaknesses of vocalist Dennis Lyxzen. Still, the guy knows how to jump around and give his best anguished scream, so no lack of passion on his part. The DVD also includes additional live footage and videos. Time to make a list of the people who want to borrow this.

[Burning Heart, burningheart.com] *Jason Schreurs*

# DUSTBIN REVIEWS

A LOOK BACK AT SOME OF OUR FAVORITE RECORDS



## BELLE AND SEBASTIAN *If You're Feeling Sinister*

For over a decade, Stuart Murdoch has created a career

in twee pop, writing songs about school crushes and boys and girls succumbing to angst. On this, the band's second, Belle and Sebastian found their musical niche. The appeal of *If You're Feeling Sinister* lies in its chamber pop arrangements—a construction of melancholy songs that never retreat into sadness. Murdoch's genial vocals, horn instrumentals, piano, and guitar inclusions transform the album into a masterpiece. Ruminations on religion and faith can be found on the title track—"If you're feeling sinister, go off and see a minister," and the paradoxical, "She was into S&M and bible studies." Several classic songs transpired from this album, including live staples "Me and the Major" and "Dylan in the Movies," to one of their all-time greats, "Get Me Away from Here I'm Dying." Although Belle and Sebastian continue to evolve, they acquired their reputable status on *Sinister*.

[Matador, matadorrecords.com] *Garin Pirnia*



## HORACE PINKER *Burn Tempe to the Ground*

Absolutely the most underrated punk band of this era, the Arizona-based Horace

Pinker has had a career based on bad luck. Lineup changes, horrid luck with labels, and just generally never getting the respect they deserve has all been par for the course for these melodic punks. This album, released in 1996, was their second full-length, but the first where they really solidified their sound. Although a slight disappointment after the jaw-dropping, *Jawbreaker*-worthy two songs on the split 7" with *Face to Face* (honestly, two of the best punk songs ever), *Burn Tempe to the Ground* was filled with gems like the raging "Youth Anthem" and "Song about Selling Out," and the more melodic and catchy "Pop Can Park." But as great as this is, the band recently released *Texas One Ten*, the best thing they've done to date—buy it immediately, pick up their back catalogue, and see what you've been missing.

[Onefoot, onefootrec.com] *Greg Pratt*



## NOISE ADDICT *Meet the Real You*

Before there was The Starting Line, Paramore, or Smoosh, the 16-year-old Ben Lee fronted

a rowdy band of Australian teens hell-bent on playing cute indie pop-rock in a band appropriately named Noise Addict. Lee, by this point, had already been discovered by Thurston Moore, written a tongue-in-cheek ditty about Evan Dando called "I Wish I Was Him," and signed a deal with Grand Royal. But Noise Addict, in its ever-fleeting moment of greatness, was Lee's chance to unleash his rock guitar prowess ("Poison 1080") and, more importantly, a chance for a group of kids to hop on a jet from Australia to tour the US, both as a headliner and supporting Sebadoh. Though extremely short-lived—*Meet the Real You* is the band's only full length—Noise Addict was an ambitious start for the future Claire Danes-dating singer/songwriter and contains 13 blissful nuggets of teen pop.

[Grand Royal, gr2records.com] *Chip Midnight*