

pedigree as 32nd level magic users on the down-low. Forget your silly System Of A Down records, this is what heavy metal needs. www.swordofdoom.com—**ABr**

CCCC½

TEST ICICLES *For Screening Purposes Only* (Domino/Outside)

It's risky business trying to predict a band's success based on their early material. You could be right and claim bragging rights when they make it big, or the full-length could tank and you could be left very disappointed. Unfortunately, it's the latter with Test Icicles, whose "Boa Vs. Python" single looked to put a new spin on the dance-punk wave. There's a much heavier emphasis on the punk side of things here, as the songs tend to lean more towards fuzzy, DFA'79-esque blasts than Franz or Bloc Party romps, with the catchy bits getting lost in fits of misguided noise. The single is still invigorating, but the rest is nothing more than wasted potential. Damn, they were so close, too. www.test-icicles.com—**SJ**

CCC

VARIOUS ARTISTS *See You On The Moon: Songs For Kids Of All Ages*

(Paper Bag/Universal)

This compilation — which features indie stars including Sufjan Stevens, Junior Boys and Apostle Of Hustle singing about G-rated topics such as head lice, elephants and Jesus — is hardly the first of its kind. Nor is it the worst. The songs are amusing enough, but when tested on a one-year-old, *See You On The Moon* failed to hold up. While Great Lake Swimmers' title track elicited smiles and handclaps, less structured acts like Montag had my little one too busy chewing on a shoe to pay attention. Still, while these kind of comps are more about self-indulgence than junior music appreciation, you can't really fault a record that features a Broken Social Scene cover of "Puff The Magic Dragon." www.paperbagrecords.com/seeyouonthemoon—**ECB**

CCC

WICKED WISDOM *ST* (Suburban Noize/Navarre/Universal)

It's a safe bet that heavy metal five-piece Wicked Wisdom wouldn't be making headlines if Jada Pinkett Smith wasn't behind the microphone. Of course, it's mostly because of the ridiculousness of Pinkett Smith gruffly screaming things like, "I love the way you bleed/Come bleed over me" and "Something inside of me could break that motherfucker's neck." No matter how hard she tries — and she does try very hard — to act the role of a metal singer, Wicked Wisdom's debut amounts to a standard screamfest set to throbbing drums, power riffs and see-through aggression. The question, "When will the bullshit end?" posed on "Cruel Intentions" is an easy one to answer: whenever this band hang up their equipment. www.wickedwisdom.net—**AK**

C½

TOM WILSON *Dog Years* (True North/Universal)

Junkhouse were cool. The faux-funk of Wilson's 2001 *Planet Love* album wasn't. *Dog Years*, on which Hamilton's gravel-throated troubadour delivers a solid dose of rootsy blues-rock, is more the former than the latter. Roseanne Cash supplies backing vocals on "Talk Of The Town," and appearances from Garry Tallent (E Street Band), Richard Bell (The Band, Janis Joplin) and Dave Roe (Johnny Cash) flesh out Wilson's introspective musings. "I'm In Love With The System" is a classic "down-on-ye-luck" commentary that Wilson is well known for. The Tin Pan Alley plonky piano of "Because Of You" and the slide-guitar shimmy of "Tell It Like It Is" help keep the album nicely paced. Wilson keeps it real without apology or pretension. www.truenorthrecords.com—**SW**

CCC

HAWKSLEY WORKMAN *Treeful Of Starling* (Universal)

Stripped of the sweeping swagger from his previous two albums, *Lover/Fighter* and *Last Night We Were The Delicious Wolves*, Hawksley Workman's new offering is a quiet, sweet and disarmingly earnest affair. Like a more focused and intimate *For Him And The Girls*, it's a swirl of wholehearted love ("You Are Too Beautiful," "You And The Candles"), melancholy ("Rain") and nostalgia for a simpler time (the catchy yet heartbreaking "When These Mountains Were The Seashore"). Put together, these nine songs form an almost plaintive plea for a more genuine world that's full of awe, wonder and beauty. And in its own innocent way, the music actually gives us a taste of what that world might be like. www.hawksleyworkman.com—**SK**

CCC½

Contributors: Elizabeth Chorney-Booth (ECB), Bryan Borzykowski (BB),

Aaron Brophy (ABr), Earl Cousins (EC), Steve English (SE), Amanda Factor (AF),

Caitlin Hotchkiss (CH), Shehzaad Jiwani (SJ),

Angela Kozak (AK), Ted Kritsonis (TK),

Sarah Kurchak (SK), Noah Love (NL),

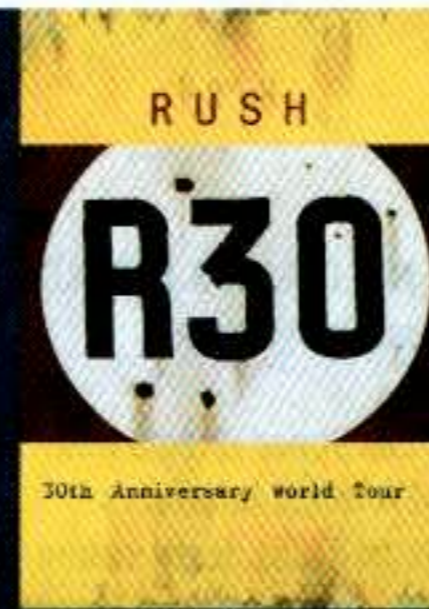
Dan "The Mouth" Lovranski (The Mouth),

David McDougall (DMc), Steve McLean (SM),

Matt Semansky (MS), Michael Stittle (MSt),

Cheryl Thompson (CT), Shannon Whibbs

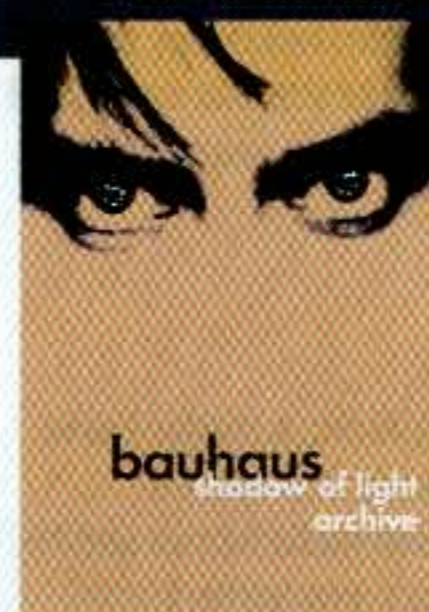
(SW), Brian Wong (BW)



RUSH *R30* (Zoe Vision/Rounder)

Shot in Frankfurt and clocking in at over two hours, this concert's playlist highlights the band's 30-year history quite well and even manages to include a few covers. Well-placed cameras and deft direction and editing bring out the pure musicianship on display. Since the band aren't too keen on staged "audience participation" gimmicks, this DVD includes great crowd reaction footage and just the right amount of spectator shouts to pull you in. This is a "how-to" concert disc.—**EC**

CCCCC



BAUHAUS *Shadow Of Light/Archive* (Beggars)

After seeing Bauhaus in concert last fall, I felt that in their heyday they probably put on a slightly edgier show. The release of two VHS collections, *Shadow Of Light* and *Archive*, onto one DVD confirms that suspicion. Not to say Peter Murphy and co. have completely lost it, but watching the singer and his bandmates in full vampire mode strangely adds to their excellent new wave sound. The only drawback is the absence of significant visual remastering and extras.—**NL**

CCCC



GOD SAVE THE QUEEN: A PUNK ROCK ANTHOLOGY (MVD)

"Anthology" is a lofty term to describe nothing more than a brief assortment of live clips and mostly vapid interviews, including a lifeless chat with New York Doll Johnny Thunders. There are some thrilling moments, including grainy footage of The Adicts and X-Ray Spex performing for sweaty, slam-dancing masses and a revealing interview with Marky Ramone. The format is disjointed and the production values are crap. This disc fails to capture the passion and impact of punk rock.—**AF**

CC



KISS *Rock The Nation Live!* (Image)

It's amazing how these guys keep going and going. *Rock The Nation Live!* is packed with 20 classic songs all performed on the group's 2004 tour. You also get to see how the band tick without makeup and outrageous outfits with footage from soundchecks, on the road and even inside dressing rooms. And now that they're older, you see quite a different side of them. "KISS Powervision" lets you watch select songs from different camera angles.—**TK**

CCC½



MOTORHEAD *Stage Fright* (Steamhammer)

Even though Steamhammer milked this gimmick with Motorhead just five years ago, this 30th anniversary concert from Germany has a completely different set-list and even more interesting bonus features that centre around an extensive documentary on the infamous road crew. Taken with the aforementioned 25th anniversary disc, this is proof positive that no matter what anniversary they're celebrating, Motorhead will blow your head off doing it. Here's to all of us making that much noise at 60 years old.—**The Mouth**

CCC½



NEW YORK DOLLS *All Dolled Up* (MVD)

This DVD is compiled from over 40 hours of Dolls footage filmed over three years in the '70s by rock photographer Bob Gruen and his wife Nadya. Filmed with an early-model video recorder, all the footage is in mono sound and black and white, giving it a certain home movie charm. We see the Dolls perform in infamous New York venues like Max's Kansas City and on a west coast tour. This disc also includes an interview with Gruen, band interviews and backstage peeks.—**AF**

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