

## HOME ENTERTAINMENT PREVIEW

## Casting a critical eye

THE TIMES' RESIDENT EXPERTS LIST SOME NOTABLE DVD OFFERINGS IN FILM, TV AND POP MUSIC.

## POP

RICHARD CROMELIN

**W**HY not make your music DVD experience as weighty as possible by loading up with two of the most influential figures in rock's past? When you're done with Bob and Joe, you can explore what dance-music partisans see as the sound of the future.

**"Bob Marley and the Wailers: Catch a Fire"**

The excellent "Classic Albums" series focuses on "Catch a Fire," the Wailers' 1973 debut album, which brought Bob Marley out of the Jamaican music world and sent him, and reggae music, toward global prominence. It was no accident — this hourlong anatomy shows how the original tapes were "sweetened" in London under the eye of Island Records' owner Chris Blackwell. The series' mixing-board isolation of the instruments on different tracks has never been more enlightening. In release, Eagle Vision USA, \$10.99.

**"Joe Strummer: Let's Rock Again"**

As we wait for director Julien Temple to finish his documentary on his friend, Joe Strummer, quality time with the Clash leader is available on "Let's Rock Again" as director Dick Rude follows the singer on the road in 2002 trying to make a go of his band the Mescaleros. Through episodes of indignity and futility, Strummer — soon to die of heart failure — is indefatigable, his curiosity and appetite for life as inspiring as his music. In release, Image Entertainment, \$19.99.

**"Put the Needle on the Record"**

Spiced with footage of beautiful young people cavorting in Miami clubs and beaches at the annual Winter Music Conference, writer-director Jason Rem's "Put the Needle on the Record" is a primer on the art of the DJ and the history of dance music. It might be a niche subculture in the U.S., but the artists, promoters and others interviewed in "Needle" argue that around the world, it's the mainstream sound of youth. In release, Music Video Distributors, \$19.95.