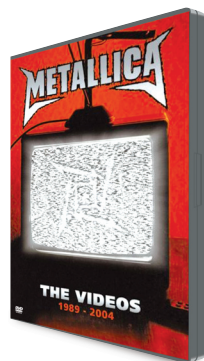


In Our Systems

This Month in DVDs, Video, and Books



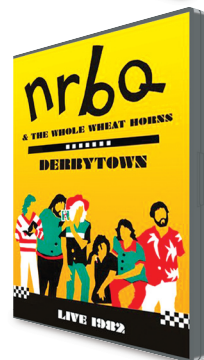
Metallica The Videos 1989-2004 (Warner Bros.)

Rather than feeling dated, these early Metallica reels come off more like the beginnings of video innovation, the creative seeds of what would take place hereafter. Credit for this goes to directors like Wayne Isham and Jonas Akerlund. In fact, despite the great songs—including “Enter Sandman,” “Wherever I May Roam,” “Fuel,” and “Whiskey in the Jar”—and lots of close-ups of classic solos, the directors are the stars here. The remixed audio is flawless, and the bonuses—including the trailer for *Some Kind of Monster*, the video for “Mama Said,” and the rare home video “2 of One”—make this a great romp, and a feast for fans.



Buckethead Young Buckethead, Vols. 1-2 (Avabella Productions)

If you, like many of us in Guitarland, are bemused by the fret-tastic magic of Buckethead, this two-volume set of his early years provides a few clues as to how he ended up where he is. The collection, assembled by Buckethead’s former roommate Jas Obrecht back in the early ‘90s, features gigs from Buckethead’s band the Deli Creeps, plus some random, maniacal freak-outs. One of the latter, a mesmerizing, fluently phrased spot called “Backyard Solo,” proves what we’ve suspected all along: the guy has descended on this planet from somewhere very far away.

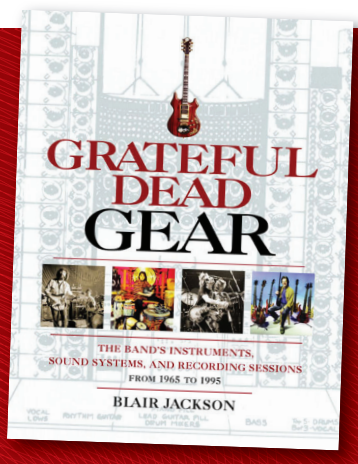


NRBQ Derbytown (MVD Visual)

This grainy, wobbly, amateurish gig flick, produced on the cheap, is certainly no substitute for seeing the band live—but it’s NRBQ, after all, one of the most thoroughly entertaining bar bands of the rock era. *Derbytown*, filmed in Louisville (duh!) in 1982, spotlights the R&B and blues axework of big Al Anderson, one of rock’s truly unsung players. Within the loose and varied context of the ‘Q’s musical frolics, Anderson trots out tributes to everyone from Chuck Berry and B.B. King to Steve Cropper and Stevie Ray Vaughan. —BOB GULLA

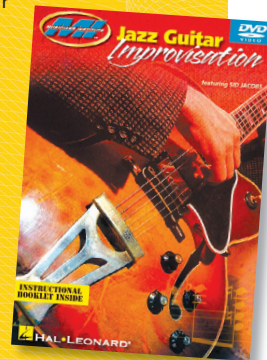
BOOKS

At last, a book for Deadheads who also happen to be gearheads. *Grateful Dead Gear*, from Hal Leonard, cuts through a haze of pot smoke to reveal all the equipment used by Jerry Garcia & Co. And we’re not talking bongos here. We’re talking guitars and amps—including instrument design—recording techniques, and the band’s famous “Wall of Sound” PA setup, much of which is captured in the over 100 photos here. Although the Dead are often remembered by the uninformed simply as a noodle-happy jam band whose female fans refused to wear bras, they were actually very forward-thinking when it came to merging technology with music—a fact this book bears out during the course of almost 300 pages. One caveat: If you ever followed the Dead, you’ll want to flip through this one slowly; any more than a page per 10 seconds could cause flashbacks. —CHRIS O’BYRNE



INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEOS OF THE MONTH

Appearing for the first time on DVD, *Jazz Guitar Improvisation* (Hal Leonard), featuring Musicians Institute beast Sid Jacobs, is a must-have for any inspiring jazzbo who’s bored sick of targeting chord tones, groping at boppiness through a wayward passing note or two. This is an approach to jazz for those seeking



a more modern sound, featuring concepts such as triad pairs, 12-tone lines, and ways to move 4ths around in various intervals. It may all seem on the pedantic side upon flipping through the accompanying booklet, but just wait till you see Jacobs apply these concepts in a musical setting—why, it all makes perfect sense! Now, if only your fingers were that fluid.

Also new this month is *Classical Guitar Favorites* (Cherry Lane), in which instructor Danny Gill walks you through six time-honored pieces, including “Bouree in E Minor,” “Malagueña,” and “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring.” What sets this tutorial apart from others like it is the addition of on-screen tablature for each piece. Indeed, your eyes will be ping-ponging intently from Gill’s fretboard to the staff at the bottom of the screen, leaving you no time to check in on what your own hands are doing. Good luck!

