



## ENVY TRANSFOVISTA (TEMPORARY RESIDENCE LTD)



Transfovista gives newcomers to Japanese post-rockers Envy an opportunity to play catch-up with a group that's been on the go now for more than 15 years. This particular throwback, however, also offers long-time fans who have yet to see the group in the flesh the next best thing. Over the course of two hours the DVD takes in 17 performances, culled from throughout the bands 15-year career, and includes footage from Japanese concerts and international tours. Naturally, as the band came more

to prominence and subsequently the venues/equipment got bigger and better, the latter-day footage is of superior quality both in sound and vision. But there's something inherently exciting about the group's earlier footage, which is often a frantic blur or (tape) hissing hardcore and violently thrashing hand-held camera action. It succeeds in getting their point across to the viewer, if not quite delivering the desired impact of a hardcore pit in a sweaty underground basement, but then what music DVD does.

Later footage is elegantly shot, boasting multiple camera angles and sound-desk recording quality – a necessity for the dynamics now at work with Envy's music - but it's also quite sterile and stagnant by comparison to the earlier footage. The 'behind-the-scenes' documentation, serves to act more as a buffer between the musical segments, the accompanying tour-footage giving viewers absolutely no insight into the band's personal history nor its dynamic away from the stage. The band don't speak English either and seeing as the footage isn't subtitled the overall effect of Transfovista, between both the performances and the occasional tourist scenery, is similar to that of latter-day Envy albums – occasionally thrilling, sometimes enthralling, by equal turns intense and subtle, ambitious within their own parameters but ultimately a tad long winded and too drawn out on the whole to warrant repeated unbroken viewings.

GRAHAM LYNCH

## TAD BUSTED CIRCUITS AND RINGING EARS (MVD)



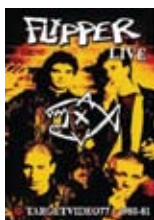
Krist Novoselic called TAD "the quintessential grunge band", and he should know.

Without doubt the heaviest band of the grunge era, both in terms of their pummelling rawk and front-

man Tad Doyle's physique, TAD were the original band sporting that lumber-jack, flannel shirt look that was eventually appropriated as the uniform of choice for the Seattle scene. Busted Circuits traces the career of the band through interviews and anecdotes from the band members and Sub Pop labelmates like Kim Thayil (Soundgarden), Krist Novoselic and Chad Channing (Nirvana), Mark Arm (Mudhoney) and indeed Sub Pop employees themselves - a fairly standard doc, then, with some interesting archival footage and a couple of videos thrown in as bonus material. Although one or two entire live performances would have made this package that little bit better, this is still a great snapshot of one of the most vital eras in music.

BOBBY BONE

## FLIPPER LIVE TARGET VIDEO 1980-81 (MVD)



Decimated by heroin overdoses and legal wrangles, the ever-changing line-up that is Flipper resurfaced recently after years of inactivity with Krist Novoselic in tow for a series of shows and a brand new album. This is a timely reminder of the band's early days, two gigs making up this frills-free concert video, the first filmed in 1980 in front of a handful of unfortunate audience members comprised, as the intro states, mostly of Flipper's friends and family members, the second from the band's opening slot for Throbbing Gristle in 1981. A typically ramshackle performance that made the Sex Pistols sound like virtuoso musicians, this is the kind of filthy, nonsensical post-punk that still resonates today.

JOHN S

## THE EX BUILDING A BROKEN MOUSETRAP (EX RECORDS/TOUCH AND GO) GÉTATCHÈW MÉKURYA & THE EX + GUESTS (BUDA)



A self-styled Anarchist band, Netherlands' The Ex have always been a highly-charged politicalised outfit, and this forms the backbone of Building A Broken Mousetrap. Subtitled "concert film, city film, protest film", The Ex's performance at NYC's famed Knitting Factory in 2004 is interspersed with various images that reflect the band's political leanings, all

directed by Jem Cohen, best known for his 10-years-in-the-making doc on Fugazi. But apart from their anarchist pre-occupations, The Ex are a highly skillful musical unit, and their explorations of numerous musical genres has led them to collaborate with Gétatchew Mékurya, giving birth to so-called 'Ethio-punk' in the process, a sort of Ethiopian ethno/jazz/punk hybrid. The result was one of the most intriguing records of last year, Moa Anbessa, and the concert video shows the expanded The Ex/Mékurya/guests line-up in full swing. Highly recommended.

JOHN S

## BAD ACID TAB 6 (BAD ACID)



Before the content even gets the chance to frazzle your frontal lobe, the sheer size of Bad Acid's sixth instalment is enough to give your senses a fair old shake-up: a 70-minute DVD,

11 goddamn hours' worth of MP3s, a 60-page booklet and a bonus 14-track sampler showcasing Bone Structure Records' dark ambient wares. Christ. Though focusing primarily on the doom / stoner / psychedelic / space rock side of things there's actually far much more on offer, from crust punk to savage South American death metal and the