

expanded project includes 40 minutes of footage not in the original film. Here, Joe demonstrates how to clean the dirt out of the grooves of a 78, there's a 30-minute featurette relating Bussard's amazing life story, and the full, live, colour footage of Son House performing Death Letter Blues from a 1968 Manchester concert.

Highlights include footage of Bussard pulling out favourite 78s in his cozy basement record library. Bluesman Paul Geremia drops by at one point, completing Blind Willie McTell's arresting Statesboro Blues on his 12-string. Other brief performance clips by banjoists Clarence Ashley and Macon add to the lustre. *Gary von Tersch*

Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds

The Abattoir Blues Tour

★★★★★

Mute SEEDVD 4

Magnificent companion to the last two studio albums

With 2004's *Abattoir Blues/The Lyre Of Orpheus*, Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds not only consolidated, but capped, the glorious deluge which had been exploding from their loins for the previous 20 years. Disc One highlights an *Abattoir Blues* gig at Brixton Academy in November 2004. There are also seven songs from a June 2003 *Nocturama* show at Hammersmith Apollo, where they reach back to unexpected delights such as *Sad Waters* from *Your Funeral... My Trial*, and *Birthday Party-era Wild World*. *Wonderful Life* and *Babe, You Turn Me On* gain further emotional majesty, while the arcane demons are unleashed on *Red Right Hand* and blues standard *Stagger Lee*.

The package also includes relevant videos, including *Babe, I'm On Fire's* hilarious costume-carnival, a short about *Abattoir/Orpheus'* creation and Mick Harvey's hand-held record of the shoot for *Bring It On's* ragga girls' grind-fest promo. The limited deluxe version also features two CDs of further tour highlights. As an account of one of the world's most untouchable outfits, this is unbeatable. What's frightening is the thought that, after the *Proposition* movie and with *Grinderman* poised to empty both barrels, what can this beautifully unruly camp ejaculate next? *Kris Needs*

Cracker & Camper Van Beethoven

First Annual Campout Live

★★★★★

MVD Visual DR-4543

Crackers, Campers and friends live from the backwoods



Now for a live DVD with a difference. The difference being that this isn't just one or two artistes, but the full supporting cast of the entire

Cracker & CVB extended family coming together for their first annual camp-out at Pappy & Harriet's Pioneertown Palace, 9 and 10 September 2005. With CVB once again afloat as a working band in the wake of 2004's *New Roman Times*, and Cracker, David Lowery's post-CVB side project, still going strong, someone hit upon the bright idea of having both bands host and co-headline a mini festival-cum-tribal gathering of related acts and musical simpaticos.

The DVD opens and closes with selected highlights of CVB and Cracker sets. Highlights of solo and group performances from Johnny Hickman, Victor Krummenacher, Jonathan Segal, Greg Lisher and CVB's long-running cult spin-off, Monks Of Doom, are sequenced in between. Caught on camera with the minimum of fuss, the rough-and-ready shooting style lends a down-home, grass-roots flavour to the many variations of the Cracker/CVB experience. The live segments from CVB, Cracker and the superb Monks Of Doom provide the highlights, but there's plenty more to delight any self-respecting aficionado. Proof that the family that plays together, stays together. *Grahame Bent*

Phil Lesh & Friends

Live At The Warfield

★★★

Ravin' Films 88697006719 (2-DVD)

Myth-bothering indulgence Musos and fans will love this DVD, but for the casual viewer it will be a slog and a half. Over two hours of Lesh's hoarse singing with a band featuring arch jazz guitarist John Scofield gives us *Grateful Dead* classics shorn of their rockin' greatness. Instead we get mostly academia, with the second DVD being made up of a lengthy conversation between Lesh and

the jazzers about the meaning behind improvisation in jazz and rock (snooze).

Better are the flashes of brilliance when Lesh, Scofield and Larry Campbell forget jazz-fusion and just let rip, as on the fascinatingly extended *St Stephen/The Eleven*. Joan Osborne, a far better singer than Lesh, delivers big on a surprising *All Along The Watchtower*. Lesh comes into his own on *Eyes Of The World*, but Garcia's presence is sorely missed. Like Zeppelin, it would be better to leave the myth alone. Obviously this crossed Lesh's mind, for a chunk of the second DVD is an ambient-style excursion into outer-space improvisation, which stands on its own, outside of *Deadlore*. And that's the way it should be. *Mark Prendergast*

Nirvana

A Classic Album Under Review: In Utero

★★★★★

Chrome Dreams SIDVD 513

Hey, wait! I've got a small complaint

With its myriad influences ranging from the personal to the social, *In Utero's* legacy as Kurt Cobain's final work, and the bizarre sight of Steve Albini producing (sorry, 'recording') the most hyped major label alt.rock release of the decade, represents an ideal topic for a classic album study.

Tracing Nirvana's cultural evolution is a frustratingly obvious starting point: the effects of the band's locality on their music, their melodically infused Melvins influence and their reaction to hair metal are all both glaringly obvious, as well as being more thoroughly documented elsewhere. Fortunately, the quality is upped when former drummer Chad Channing and *Bleach* producer Jack Endino join the usual array of journalistic opinion to add insight gleaned from their direct involvement with the band.

The depth of analysis on key tracks such as *Heart-Shaped Box*, *Rape Me* and *All Apologies* is strong. Each contributor elucidates their theories as to what they represent both in the microcosm of Nirvana and in musical culture as a whole. But as the album edges into more abrasive territory with *Milk It* and *Tourettes*, the review glosses over them abruptly. It's as if the experts have lost interest. It's a decent study for obsessives, but essentially only of *Biography* Channel standard. *Ben Hopkins*

Elvis Presley

Memphis Recording Service – The Rise Of Elvis Presley Vol 2: 1955

★★★★★

Memphis Recording Service MRS100223 (DVD + 7" + Book)

Chronicle of Elvis in 1955

Focusing on the pivotal year when Elvis was coiled to ignite a rock'n'roll revolution, 1995, this lavish production includes a 368-page book, a DVD and a Sun reproduction vinyl single of *Mystery Train* processed from the original master mother stamper. Along with informative text providing heretofore unknown details on



Presley's career circa 1955, the book is crammed with hundreds of rare photos, news clippings, concert ads, reviews, contracts, set lists and more.

The DVD offers a generous 40 cuts (many never before available in their entirety until now), numbering Sun sides, live tracks (*Louisiana Hayride*, *Eagle's Hall*, *KDVA Radio's Cotton Club*) and interviews, including one conducted by Mae Boren Axton, the future co-writer of *Heartbreak Hotel* herself.

Also noteworthy is the previously unseen footage of Elvis taped on 25 May 1955 at The Jimmie Rodgers Memorial Celebration in Meridian, Mississippi. Albeit brief in length, this historic footage is the earliest known existing clip of Presley, predating the *Magnolia Gardens* home movie footage included on the new *Elvis Presley-The Ed Sullivan Show 3-DVD* set. Highly recommended. *Ken Sharp*

Dusty Springfield

People Get Ready

★★★★★

Delta 82685

Divine archive of all-time great



Beyond her unrivalled status as the greatest of the '60s British pop chanteuses, Dusty was also the most visually arresting. The power and purity of her voice was ever more enhanced by the hair, make-up and hand gestures, as she blazed a broken-hearted trail across the radio airwaves.

People Get Ready is a rich video archive of her finest small-screen moments, from the upbeat soul of *Every Day I Have To Cry* and *Can I Get A Witness?*, to the more sombre balladeering of *How Can I Be Sure?*. It may frustrate some that there's no information on the origins of any of these 21 clips (although several of the earliest are clearly from *Ready Steady Go!*), but it should be enough just to wallow in the splendour of one of the finest female singers of all time.

None of the performances are from her own BBC series – a separate compilation of those is due out soon. But this is no cynical cash-in designed to steal the thunder of that forthcoming DVD. Rather, it's a far-reaching celebration of a time when pop TV wasn't an embarrassment, and its regular stars would have discerning folk cancelling plans to make sure they didn't miss a second. *Terry Staunton*

Psychobilly: Behind The Music

★★★★★

Cherry Red CRDVD 143

Mad tales from some seriously mad people

As punk fragmented and diversified in the late 70s/early 80s, several new movements sprang up as a consequence, usually injecting older styles with punk's spit and spirit. But none were as truly deranged as psychobilly's mix of rockabilly, schlock-horror references, punk bile, towering quiffs and outrageous tattoos.

Psychobilly: Behind The Music purports to tell 'the story of the psychobilly phenomenon', but that's not strictly true. Instead, what we actually get are a series of interviews with some of the scene's main men, such as Nigel Lewis of *The Meteors*, Chuck Harvey from *Frantic Flintstones*, Alan Wilson of *The Sharks* (and *Deathrow* fanzine), and Mark Harman from *Restless*.

And that's not half bad, as all deliver amusing anecdotes and give a real flavour of what being involved in psychobilly is all about. But be warned: you won't learn much real history from this film, though Nigel Lewis' revelation that *The Meteors*, as acknowledged 'billy founders, got the word psychobilly from Johnny Cash's *One Piece At A Time* was something that we hadn't heard before. *Shane Baldwin*

DVDs In Brief

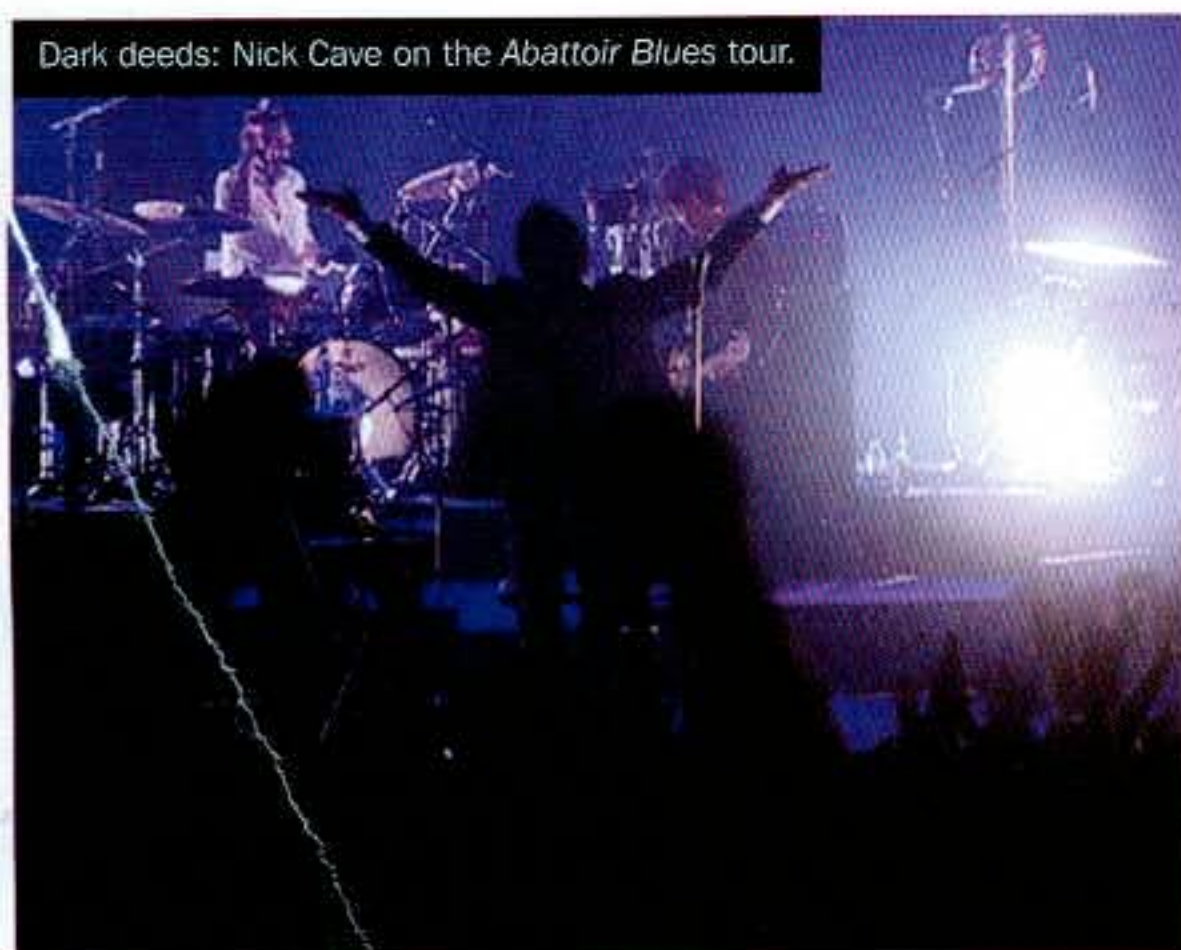
KAMELOT One Cold Winter's Night (Steamhammer/SPV

★★★★★) captures the US symphonic prog-metallers in a 90-minute live concert in Oslo, Norway, in February 2006. It takes in cuts such as *Black Halo* and *Forever*, shot on 18 cameras in 5.1 Surround Sound. The second disc, *Journey Within*, adds 87 minutes of behind-the-scenes featurettes, including interviews with the band and guest Simone Simons (Epica), a drum spot, four promo clips (one uncensored), a making-of, a live cut from *Sweden Rock 2006*, biographies, a photo gallery, slide show, discography and 28-page booklet.

KREATOR Enemy Of God Reunited (Steamhammer/SPV

★★★★★) is a slipcased, limited-run CD/DVD digipak, expanding the *Enemy Of God* set with two live cuts from Busan, South Korea. The DVD, *Live Wacken 2005* runs to 14 tracks, accompanied by a three-part *Rockpalast* Bootleg, four promo clips (one extended, one animated), a making-of and animated video lyrics, totalling 155 minutes in 5.1 Surround Sound.

Mixing acoustic and electric material to grand orchestral effect, **SHERYL CROW Wildflower Tour: Live From New York (Universal** ★★★★★) saw the Bond girl run through 15 catalogue and recent classics, from the insistent *Run Baby* to celebratory *Every Day Is A Winding Road*. Recorded in New York's Lincoln Center on Halloween 2005, the 5.1 Surround Sound set clocks in at 72 minutes, including a couple of bonus cuts. A reminder of why Crow remains one of America's most dazzling golden gals in the live arena. *Tim Jones*



Dark deeds: Nick Cave on the Abattoir Blues tour.