



Bob Marley and the Wailers
Catch a Fire (Classic Albums series)
 Image Entertainment

Bob Marley and the Wailers: *Catch a Fire* is another title in the Classic Albums series, a collection of documentaries on, you guessed it, classic albums. *Catch a Fire* certainly has a place in this category; being the Wailers major label debut, it was the world's first real encounter with the undeniable power of reggae music.

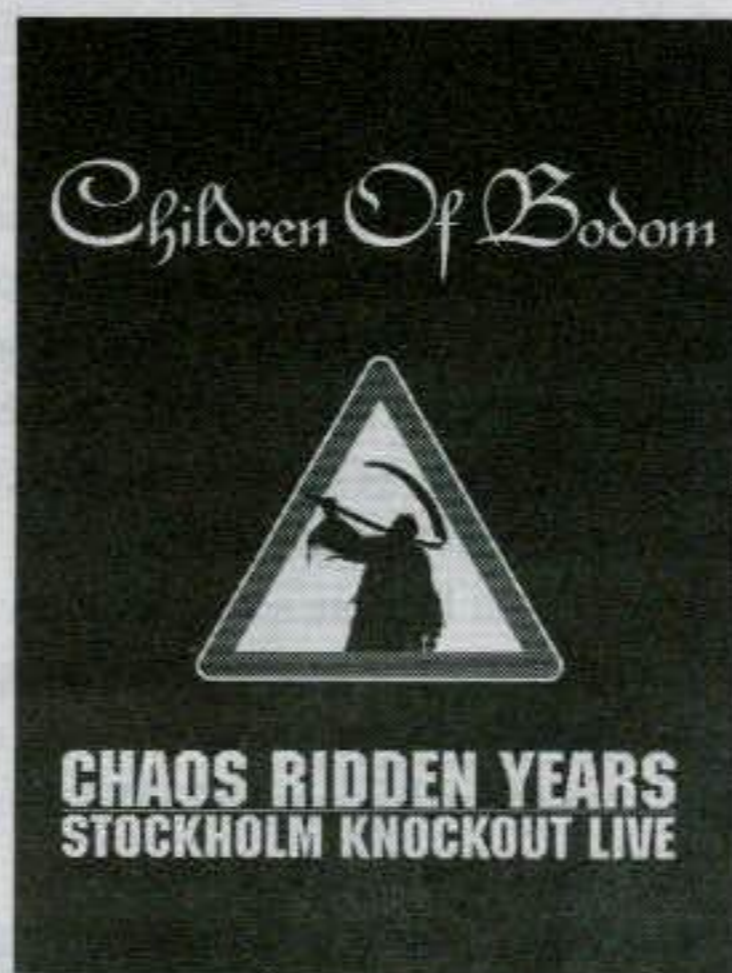
The DVD takes you, track by track through the legendary 1973 *Catch a Fire* album. It reveals musical and production techniques used with producers and engineers, and explores the birth and formation of the songs with concert and studio footage and interviews with studio musicians as well as The Wailers themselves.

While this focus on engineering and production of the album is a treat for aficionados and production geeks, there are more than a few moments in the film where rare concert or home video footage is annoyingly voiced-over by the guy who mastered the tracks or some such dull thing.

The music itself sometimes takes a backseat to the commentary, and you may find yourself wishing you had bought the album instead of the DVD, unless you already own it.

The musicians talk about their mission and purpose as one of revolution and upheaval rather than radio invasion. It was a time when music mattered; it was to free the human spirit, not to sell sparkling wine and flashy cars.

Enduring and unparalleled songs such as "Concrete Jungle" and "Slave Driver" certainly live up to such rhetoric. "The music hits you where you feel no pain," says Marley, which is lucky, because they pack a



heavy punch. *Catch a Fire* is still burning bright after 33 years, roaring with fury and soul against injustice and inequity.

• Darren Nightingale

Children of Bodom
Chaos Ridden Years

Universal

Clocking in at just over 3 hours of footage including 18 live tracks (with guitar and drum solos) a documentary feature, a behind-the-scenes segment and a slew of their videos (both versions of "Are You Dead Yet", "Every Time I Die", "In Your Face", "Sixpounder", "Trashed Lost" and "Strung Out"), the Hate Crew delivers an in-depth look at Finland's biggest metal band.

C.O.B. plays a phenomenal set of songs old and new, aiming to please every fan of this band. Though an all around great DVD experience, in the behind-the-scenes and documentary pieces, Alexi Laiho comes off as an arrogant, egotistical moron with a Napoleon complex – which somehow makes this release a lot funnier to watch than intended. The musicianship is what really sets it aside. Steve Vai and Zak Wylde have already proclaimed Mr. Laiho as the next guitar god, and Janne Wirman's keyboarding skills would make Gregg Rolie (*Journey*) throw his digits onto a table saw. And hearing what drummer Jaska Raatikainen did on the last *Evemaster* record makes me wonder if C.O.B are holding him back.

• Rob Strawberry

Mission of Burma
Not A Photograph

Story Element/MVD Visual



When Mission Of Burma announced in 2002 that they were planning to reform - 19 years after their original end - it was an amazing, unexpected surprise to say the least.

However, to come back firing as they have since, touring the world, releasing two new studio albums and playing as intensely now if not more than ever, it all seems like a bit of a miracle, and that might be an understatement as well. This film, plainly stated, tells their story. Guitarist Roger Miller and bassist Clint Conley originally joined forces in 1978 as members of the synthed-up punk act Moving Parts (seen here in all of their shirt-unbuttoned, goofy-haired glory). Fortunately, this group was short-lived, and soon led to the pair spitting off to start a heavier, more guitar-driven project of their own. Enter drummer Peter Prescott (and sound manipulator Martin Swope soon after), and Mission Of Burma - one of the most innovative and influential bands of the '80s American underground - was born.

Throughout the film, Miller, Conley and Prescott all provide extensive commentary in interview clips, highlighted by an astonishing amount of live footage assembled by directors David Kweiller Jr. and Jeff Iwanicki. From Burma's formative performances in the Boston area to their recent gigs all around the world, these shots illustrate clearly just how little the trio's sound and ferocity have faltered.

As one listen to their blistering 2006 release *The Obliterati* will prove, Mission Of Burma sure don't sound like most dad-bands pushing fifty (though they do look like them). Still, their return is a triumphant one, and this DVD is a pretty damn good way to celebrate.

• Jesse Locke

Neko Case
Live From Austin, Texas
 New West

Austin City Limits is the best in country music over 20 years ago. I put some of the best in the first time. I Nelson, Waylon, Yoakam, and Steve second... Neko Case has a voice that sheds a tear (he one of her live 2003 good end

Well, that do Neko Case fan who she is and radio a few times pleased. Neko Case country torch and it truly shines. ly lets it rip, you bumps. The sp really puts her where it deserves when you have vocals like Blue Not that she ne background ha it rip. The sound

The single p is that it's really she has with her tar/banjo/pedal means a hoedown what this DVD friends the Sad