

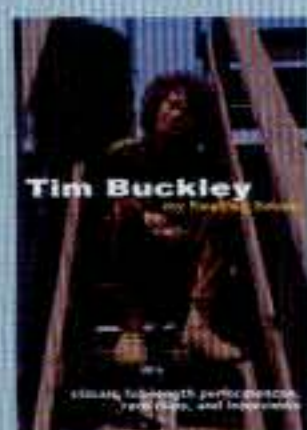


**BEST OF THE FLATT & SCRUGGS TV SHOW:** Classic Bluegrass from 1956 to 1962, Vols. 1 & 2

(SHANACHIE) ★ ★ ★ ★  
Before *The Ballad of Jed Clampett*, and long before their ascension to bluegrass royalty,

dvds

Lester Flatt, Earl Scruggs and The Foggy Mountain Boys hosted *Flatt & Scruggs Grand Ole Opry*, a continuum of their Martha White-sponsored radio show, which aired throughout the South during the '50s and '60s. The boys have a demeanor for radio, as evidenced by fiddle player Paul Warren's goofy grins, Flatt's staid delivery and Scruggs' bemused expression as he works his three-fingered magic on the banjo. And that's the real treat here—savoring a rare, intimate glimpse of The Foggy Mountain Boys in their uninhibited prime. Now on DVD are the first selections from 36 master tapes (there are two half-hour episodes per disc, with more releases to follow) that were discovered and donated to the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. Highlights include classic takes of "Earl's Breakdown" and "Foggy Mountain Special," never released sacred numbers such as "Precious Memories" and "Are You Washed in the Blood," and a mesmerizing rendition of "Wildwood Flower" with guest Mother Maybelle Carter. These black-and-white performances show a seasoned, hardworking band at their best and preserve a candid moment in bluegrass music history. —TOM WILMES



**TIM BUCKLEY My Fleeting House** (MUSIC VIDEO DISTRIBUTORS) ★ ★ ★

If this 105-minute collection of mostly unreleased TV performance clips and interviews with Buckley's collaborators and biographer had been edited down to about an hour, it could easily have made one of the strongest cases to date of why his brief, erratic career deserves renewed attention. Moving from the baroque folk idioms of late-'60s California to jazzier textures and finally to r&b-flavored confessionals, Buckley could never be pinned down. And as co-writer Larry Beckett, guitarist Lee Underwood and author David Browne point out, he could never hold onto the same fan base from one album to the next. Devotees of this underground legend may appreciate the complete performance footage of all 14 songs, but when thrown together among the sometimes overindulgent interview footage, they lack the coherence that one might expect of a concert video or a more selective career overview. In any event, this DVD painstakingly documents Buckley's daunting leap from psychedelic folk to an avant-garde mode in which his voice took on a range of instrumental pitches and timbres in free-form compositions. —BILL LEVINE



**DANIELSON: A Family Movie (or Make a Joyful Noise HERE)** (HVE/IMAGE) ★ ★ ★ ★

As an artist who has sung in a piercing falsetto while dressed in hospital scrubs and strummed a guitar while standing inside the trunk of a customized tree, Daniel Smith is the kind of songwriter who requires some explanation to fully appreciate. Director JL Aronson provides that and then some with this documentary that traces Smith's genius from the Rutgers' college senior thesis that began his creative relationship with his four brothers and sisters to his struggles to define his vision through a trio of recording projects. Along the way, we see Smith's brand of avant-garde indie pop and outside-the-box Christianity turn off the faithful and win over the faithless, as the film uses behind-the-scenes interviews and live footage to explore the man, his family and his eccentricities. Before it's over, Smith will struggle to redefine his music as his family grows up and watch his protégé and adopted sibling Sufjan Stevens reach the masses. The mystery isn't solved, but... —MATT FINK

Where do you find...

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GLEN PHILLIPS  
INARA GEORGE  
JACKSON BROWNE  
GARRISON STARR  
BRETT DENNEN  
ALLISON MOORER  
AND DOZENS MORE?



Brett Dennen



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