

Reviews

DVD Review **Tim Buckley**

Tim Buckley

My Fleeting House

MVD Visual (DR-4566)

Grade: ★★★★★

This release has a treasure trove of footage for Buckley fans — 14 TV performances, all but two previously unavailable on DVD, from a 1967 appearance on “The Monkees” (“Song to the Siren”) to a 1974 spot on the U.K. music show “Old Gray Whistle Test” (“The Dolphins”), a year before his death.

Linking the performances are interviews with those who worked with Buckley (Larry Beckett, who co-wrote songs with Buckley, and Lee Underwood, Buckley’s guitarist, and the two also provide album-by-album critiques as one of the DVD’s extras), and David Browne, author of the acclaimed “Dream Brother: The Lives and Music of Jeff and Tim Buckley.”

But it’s the performances that are the star exhibit here, and they’re all wonderfully evocative, from Buckley’s folkie beginnings (his “Monkees” appearance sees him solely accompanied by his acoustic guitar), to his later years, especially after the release of 1970’s *Starsailor*, which saw him incorporating other musical — and non-rock — instrumentation. The between-songs banter showcases more of Buckley’s low-key personality, as when he politely fields questions during “The Steve Allen Show” about his hairstyle from a woman with a teased bouf-



Elektra

fant (“It’s groovy!” she finally exclaims). Best of all, there’s a “Performances Only” playback option. A must for Buckley fans.

— By Gillian G. Gaar

David Bowie

Young Americans (Special Edition)

Virgin (51260)

Grade: ★★★★★

The Best of David Bowie

1980/1987: Sight & Sound

Virgin (865872)

Grade: ★★★

David Bowie dropped seven albums between January 1972 and March 1975, culminating with *Young Americans*, the album that finally broke Bowie big in the U.S.

The set includes a bevy of classic tracks, including: “Fame,” his collaboration with John Lennon; “Fascination,” based on “Funky Music (Is A Part Of Me)” by Luther Vandross, who adds backing vocals and gets a co-writing credit; “Win,” one of Bowie’s most soulful ballads; and his R&B remake of Lennon’s “Across the Universe.” Another highlight is the James Brown-inspired “Right.”

Bonus tracks include three outtakes: “John, I’m Only Dancing” with a soulful ’70s disco arrangement, and two solid ballads: “Who Can I Be Now?” and “It’s Gonna Be Me,” which gets extra emotional polish from the gospel-tinged backing vocals. The DVD includes new mixes of the album by original producer Tony Visconti and an interview segment from a 1974 Dick Cavett Show, complemented with performances of “Young Americans” and “1984.”

The 1980/1987 best-of CD is redundant. Most of the 19 tracks are available on other hit compilations, and there are too many tunes from his weaker, late ’80s albums. The accompanying DVD has 15 videos that the MTV generation has already seen too many times.

— J. Poet

Black Sabbath

Live At The Hammersmith Odeon

Rhino (7735)

Grade: ★★★★★

Right now, the Ronnie James Dio-

fronted version of Black Sabbath is impressing ground-zero, doom fans everywhere live in hockey barns under the sparky moniker of Heaven And Hell. A DVD, through Rhino, is upcoming, which will offer scholarly comparison to *Live At Hammersmith Odeon*, a set recorded back in ’81, issued by Rhino Handmade in a limited run of 5,000 copies.

Of course, this is even more of a companion piece to the ill-fated *Live Evil* album from ’83, with which it overlaps greatly. Still, on its own, this is a ripping live set, Ronnie snarling and grinning and growling his way through these Dio-era and Ozzy-era tracks that the band recorded in bold, carnal high fidelity, as if some devil-child knew Rhino would need the tapes 26 years later.

Offering the rip-snortingest version of “Neon Knights” ever, this release also presents the derided, and underrated, “Country Girl,” which whirls along with the funky shell game rhythms of “Slipping Away.” “Heaven And Hell” is twice as long as it should be, but you