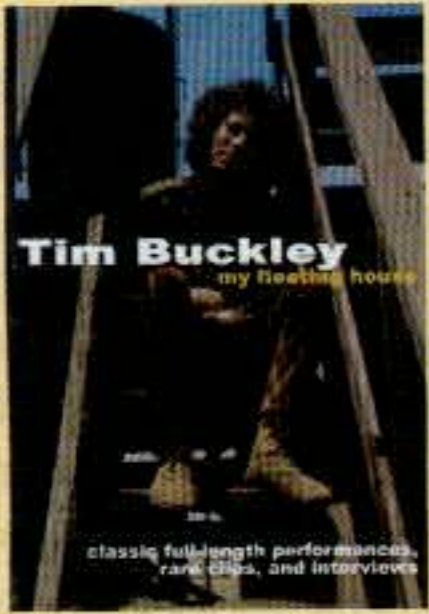


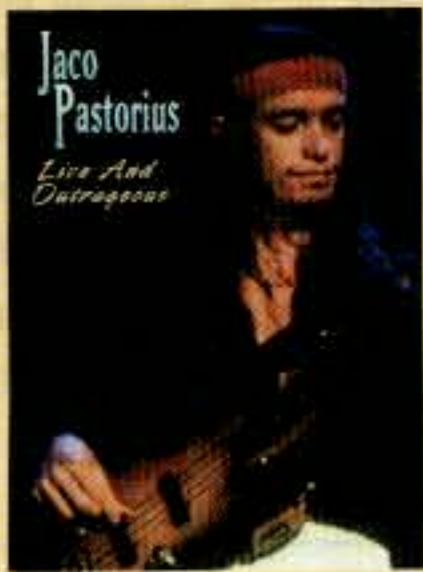
VITAL Viewing



TIM BUCKLEY

My Fleeting House • MVD

Though his son was a major gift to the world, Tim Buckley's contributions to music include a great deal more than passing on his genes. Buckley started singing when he was little by imitating Miles Davis' trumpet lines and what resulted was a voice that sounded like it was being broadcast from the moon. *My Fleeting House* is a new DVD collection of Tim Buckley's rare live performances that documents his onstage fearlessness, charm, moroseness and ability to be in complete control of his incredible gift. *My Fleeting House* includes 14 intimidatingly superb and diverse performances from 1967 to 1974 with rare clips and interviews from Larry Beckett (Buckley's co-writer), Lee Underwood (his guitarist) and David Browne (author of a Buckley biography). The DVD manages to fit in every second of folk, jazz, opera and psychedelia that Buckley was able to so remarkably create in his 28-year life. ★ Jeff Thorpe



JACO PASTORIUS

Live and Dangerous • Shanachie



WEATHER REPORT

Live at Montreux Jazz Festival 1976 • Eagle Vision

The late, great legendary bass player Jaco Pastorius was a savant and a rogue whose tragically short life is one of the benchmarks for gone-too-soon artists. If his prodigious talent has long been noted by musicians but missed by less keen listeners, these two releases will significantly buttress his legacy. Weather Report's *Live at Montreux 1976* helps contextualize the beginning of Pastorius' significant work as he had recently replaced Alphonso Johnson in this already all-star group. While not quite the eventual third lead he would become, one sees a more reserved Pastorius testing the waters with founders and Miles Davis alumni saxophonist Wayne Shorter (who literally drips with sweat throughout) and keyboardist Joe Zawinul (whose farcical facial expressions make one think of '70s porn). If band has its moments in delivering its high flying, funk-fusion, it's the young lion's harmonic workout on his fretless bass that raises the most eyebrows during "Portrait of Tracy" which would appear on his debut later that year. Fast-forwarding six years, *Live and Dangerous* captures what became legend: a flamboyant, maniacal, propulsive, leg-kicking Pastorius

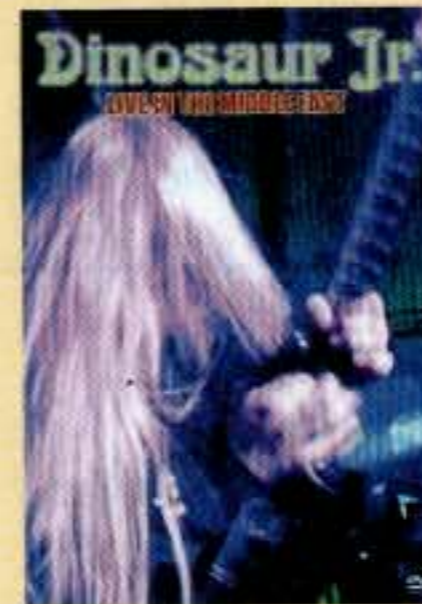
leading a band that included drummer Peter Erskine and saxophonist Bobby Mintzer (not to mention killer steel drummer Othello Molineaux). Here, Pastorius' soloing veers between spastic shards of harmonics and fast-finger flurries to deep grooves and song reinvention. He even sings the rollicking, double-time blues shuffle "Fannie May" with gusto. While Pastorius would die five years later, drug-addled and mentally unbound, the unbridled playing and perverse talent seen on these discs will always be held in high regard. ★ Josh Baron



NORTH MISSISSIPPI ALLSTARS

Keep on Marchin': Live in Burlington, VT • Songs of the South

For many, The North Mississippi Allstars have served as both a gateway into the southeast's rich sonic history and a lesson on its most important musical dynasties. So, it's a bit surprising that the trio's first official DVD effort, *Keep on Marchin'*, is, essentially, a straightforward concert film, not the mini-documentary many fans have come to expect from similar releases. That being said, the concert souvenir, recorded at South Burlington, VT's Higher Ground in November of 2005, finds the group in fine form, running through choice tracks like "Moonshine" and "Psychedelic Sex Machine" with a lean, professional ease. The disc's best moments show off the groups' virtuosity, with guitarist Luther Dickinson switching behind the kit and his brother Cody showing off his considerable washboard chops. A few bonus interviews also shed some light on The North Mississippi Allstars' loaded history, though one wishes the group had chosen to record the same Q & A backstage at one of its guest-packed hometown shows. ★ Mike Greenhaus



DINOSAUR JR.

Live From The Middle East • Image Entertainment

Image Entertainment
Filmed largely in the packed and sparsely lit Boston venue The Middle East, the first-ever Dinosaur Jr. DVD is a fitting lo-fi visual complement to their music. Diving enthusiastically into songs from their first few albums ("Freak Scene," "Little Fury Things" and closer "Just Like Heaven") that spawned their legacy, there's little interruption save for moving a precariously placed amp threatening to tumble on drummer Murph. Ironically one of the best songs is "The Wagon," a tune from the album *Green Mind* that signaled the end of the band the first time around. On this song, as on many others, Mascis' vocals strain to be hard above the noisy trio. Also featuring footage taken from Irving Plaza and other stops along the band's 2005 reunion tour, *Live From The Middle East* is a visual and audio testament to the joy that the band has in playing together again after such a long absence. ★ Tyson Schuetze