

**Tim Buckley: My Fleeting House DVD (MVD Visual)**

This makeshift documentary is really a showcase for some long-lost and cleaned-up television musical performances endorsed by the Buckley estate. Buckley aficionados will rejoice in seeing him again in living color, engaged in some rousing performances with his outspoken political views intact. Just seeing him perform "Song to the Siren" is haunting in its lyrical sparseness and beauty. Interviews with songwriter and collaborator Larry Beckett, biographer David Browne, and Buckley guitarist Lee Underwood shed some light on Buckley's singular talent. (www.timbuckleydvd.com)

8/10 By Nick Hyman



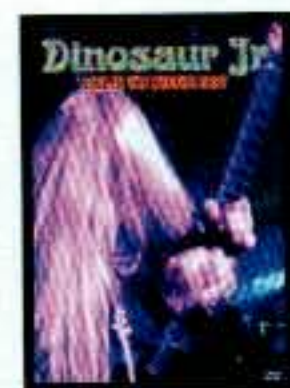
**Cinema 16: European Short Films DVD (Warp Films)**

If you're sick of the short films seen during Fox's reality show *On the Lot*, then

*Cinema 16* will likely make you feel better. The DVD consists of 16 short films from Ridley Scott, Lynne Ramsay, Christopher Nolan and Lars von Trier, as well as 12 others. The best parts of many of the shorts are the filmmakers' commentaries. These shed light on the process of creating these compelling films, most of which were made on a shoestring budget. The design of the package is smart and the booklet is informative. After this DVD's U.S. release in September, let's hope that *Cinema 16*'s other short film DVDs

(American, British and another European one) make it over to this shore soon. (www.cinema16.org)

8/10 By Nick Hyman



**Dinosaur Jr.: Live in the Middle East DVD (Image Entertainment)**

Save for perhaps Hüsker Dü, the original incarnation of

*Dinosaur Jr.*—J Mascis, Lou Barlow, and Murph on drums—may have been the least likely of the late-'80s indie rock gods to reunite. That is, until they did. *Live in the Middle East* documents the band's 2005 reunion tour, filmed mostly at Boston's Middle East club. Despite breaking up on possibly the worst of terms in 1989, the band here sounds like they never left. Mascis' guitar work is as explosive as ever, Barlow's classic bass lines are still intact, and Murph's relentless drumming provides dependable drive and anchor. The cinematography is dark but gives the intimate feel of being in the front row. The set list is made up mostly of songs from the band's seminal first three albums (so those seeking live tracks from the band's recent *Beyond* will have to surf the blogs), but hearing Mascis and Barlow belt out all of their classic tracks is positively transcendent. These are no longer young men (Mascis is working with a bit of a paunch these days and a shirtless Murph is not necessarily a pleasant sight); however, their sound is as revolutionary as it was all those years ago and musically, the band hasn't missed a beat. Thank the strangest of fates: *Dinosaur Jr.* is back and as awesome as ever. (www.dinosaurjr.com)

7/10 By Frank Valish



**Fay Grim DVD (Magnolia Pictures)**

A decade ago, Hal Hartley triumphed with his most ambitious film to date, *Henry Fool*. One opera, several shorts, and two features later, he returns to the world of Henry with his first sequel, *Fay Grim*. The film picks up ten years after its predecessor and follows Parker Posey's title character Grim, who has been talked into tracking her fugitive husband Henry (Thomas Jay Ryan) through Paris, Munich, and Istanbul. Fortunately, the entire cast has returned, along with the surprising addition of Jeff Goldblum, who slides into Hartley's stylized cadence with ease.

It's a welcome return for Hartley fans, not only to this particular world, but to a kind of film Hartley hasn't made in a while. The usual wit is back, but placed in a more narrative-driven film about international spy rings, terrorists, and a series of notebooks that may possibly contain incriminating secrets about the U.S. government. Unfortunately, *Fay Grim* lacks the emotional punch of *Henry Fool* and every shot in the film is at a tilted angle, which distracts after a while; however, it's still a well-crafted story with complex characters. The DVD offers interviews with Hartley and cast, deleted scenes, and a trailer. (www.possiblefilms.com)

8/10 By Brandon Cunningham



**The Flaming Lips: UFO's at the Zoo: The Legendary Concert in Oklahoma City DVD (Warner Bros.)**

The third DVD is not the charm for *The Flaming Lips*. After the documentary *Fearless Freaks* and the video collection *1992-2005: 19 Music Videos*, another release—even if it's their first live one—seems superfluous. The live set is a great one, but the band's been touring so much that it might only interest those few who haven't ventured out to see them live in person or via the Web, and the DVD's lack of substantial extras doesn't help. The zoo setting hints some animal integration from lead singer Wayne Coyne, but it never happens, unless you count the humans in the furry costumes. (www.flaminglips.com)

4/10 By Nick Hyman



**Foos: The History of American Foosball DVD (Limp Lettuce)**

It's about time that foosball gets its time in the limelight. The table soccer activity used to be the game to play before video games took over. In a way, Atari is the villain of this documentary about the rise and fall of some of the key players of the game in its heyday. However, Robert Ismert's doc is entirely too long; it feels way too epic and broad in scope and yet never really explains what the game is and how to play it. However, its homespun VH1 *Behind The Music* rise and fall from greatness story is engaging in its obsessiveness. (www.foosmovie.com)

6/10 By Nick Hyman



**Ghosts of Abu Ghraib DVD (HBO)**

In the concise, made-for-HBO documentary *Ghosts of Abu Ghraib*, director Rory Kennedy traces the events and decisions that led to the first public exposure of torture to be seen by the mass media, and which was perpetrated by the U.S. When photographs showing male prisoners being tortured by the U.S. Army surfaced in 2003, Abu Ghraib immersed the Bush Administration and the U.S. government in a global scandal that seriously damaged the U.S.'s credibility as liberator of the Iraqi people. Kennedy mercifully avoids Michael Moore-style bombastics and lets the story's drama unfold through interviews with army personnel stationed at Abu Ghraib, detainees, and political experts who weigh in the U.S. government's strategic dismissal of the Geneva Convention

when dealing with prisoners' rights. The most revealing interviews, though, are with psychology experts who cite studies that show how human nature can become distorted when put in prisoner and warden scenarios eerily similar to the one that played out at Abu Ghraib. (www.hbo.com)

8/10 By Matthew Giles



**Kitchen Confidential: The Complete Series DVD (Fox)**

The DVD format has been great for allowing us to see good to great shows that have been axed before their time, and one such recent show is *Kitchen Confidential*. Spawning from the book of the same name by celebri-chef Anthony Bourdain, the show follows the exploits of debauched chef Jack Bourdain (played by *Alias*' Bradley Cooper) and his attempt to make a success out of New York restaurant Nolita. The quasifictional Bourdain's cohorts include a gaggle of colorful chefs played by memorable cast members such as John Cho (*Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle*) and Nicholas Brendon (*Buffy the Vampire Slayer*). The show itself, filled with randy innuendo, might have made more sense on cable (where producer Darren Star shone with *Ser and the City*), but at least with this DVD we are treated to nine episodes that didn't air on TV, two commentaries, and a satisfyingly brief doc on what might have been. (www.foxhome.com)

7/10 By Nick Hyman



**Not Just The Best of The Larry Sanders Show DVD (Sony)**

This set has been out for a little while, but it remains perhaps the best example of what the DVD medium can achieve. First of all, *The Larry Sanders Show* hasn't been on the air for nearly a decade, but here we have an extras-rich set for one of the most influential television shows of recent times. Comprised of several episodes from the complete run of the series, the set provides a superb show overview and includes several interviews with the great creative team (Judd Apatow, Todd Holland), actors (Mary Lynn Rajsckub, Janeane Garofalo, Scott Thompson), and revealing guest stars (David Duchovny, Alec Baldwin), not to mention the Big Three of creator Gary Shandling, Rip Torn, and Jeffrey Tambor. Deleted scenes and commentaries adorn all four discs of the set, sweetening what is already a great set. Bring on the complete seasons! (www.sonypictures.com)

9/10 By Nick Hyman

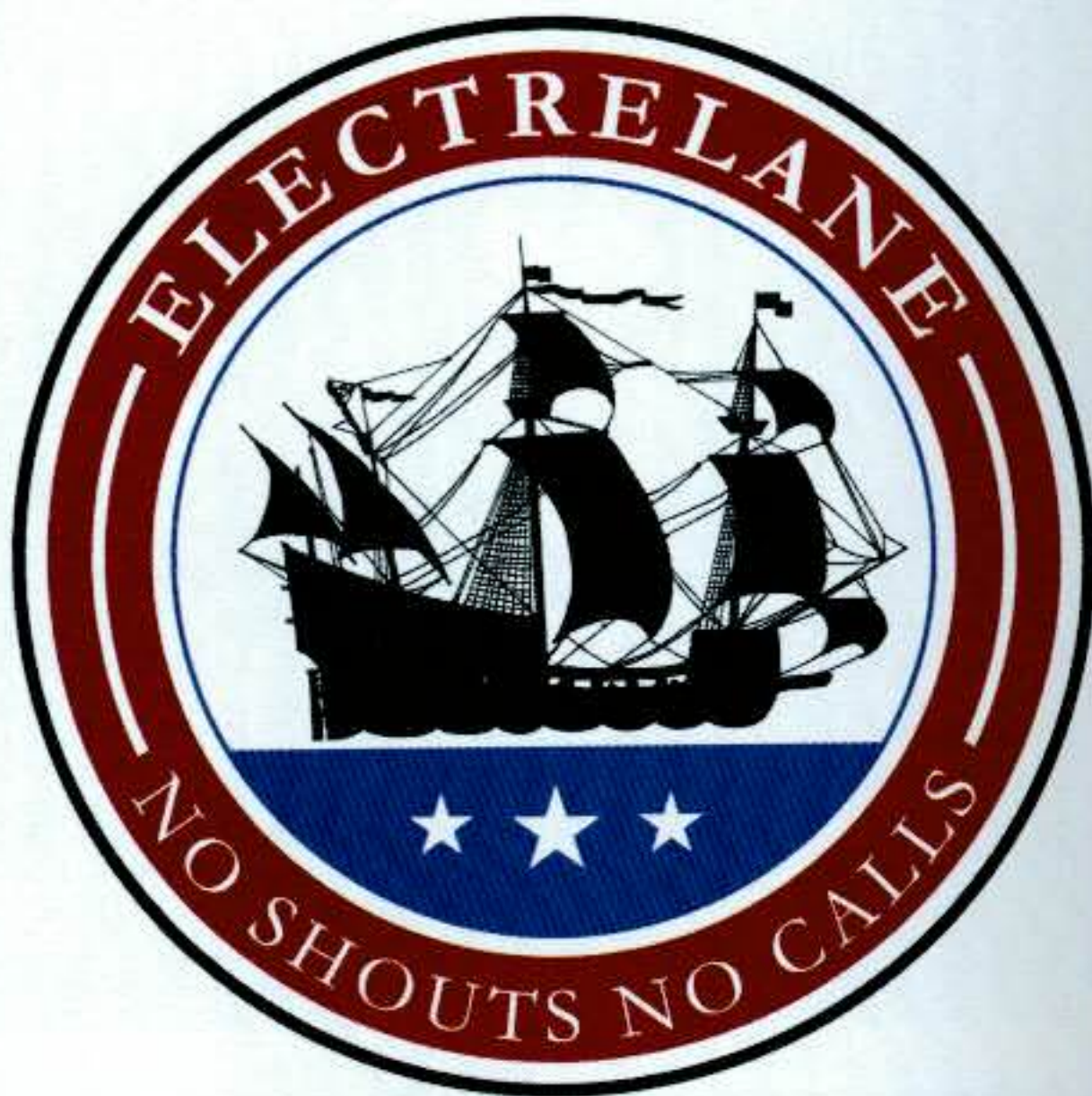


**Rock the Bells DVD (Warner Bros.)**

If you've ever toyed with the idea of putting on a music festival, *Rock the Bells* might be the cautionary tale that will put you off the idea indefinitely. The documentary is about the making of the first *Rock the Bells* hip-hop festival in 2004, which featured the triumphant reuniting of the Wu-Tang Clan. Watching promoter Chang Weisberg and his cohorts Carla Garcia and Brian Valdez navigate a rowdy, near-rioting crowd that's been waiting in line too long or hearing them try to rouse a crack-smoking Ol' Dirty Bastard from his local hotel room so he shows up is informative and entertaining. It makes you truly respect what promoters go through to try to entertain us without losing their shirts or their minds in the process. Hope they have better luck this year. (www.rockthebells.net)

6/10 By Nick Hyman

Read more DVD reviews here: [www.undertheradarmag.com/dvdreviews.htm](http://www.undertheradarmag.com/dvdreviews.htm)



THE NEW ALBUM OUT NOW ON CD/LP/DL



www.toopure.com www.electrelane.com Pure 201