UPHILL BATTLE *Wreck Of Nerves* (Relapse)
With bands like Dillinger, Mastodon and Burnt By The Sun, hardcore-metal fusion is one of the hottest things happening in metal. Uphill Battle's second album — and Relapse debut — *Wreck Of Nerves* makes an awesome impression, combining insane trebly blast beats mixed with melodic grooves. The mixture of high-pitched black metal screams, low-pitched death metal growls and hardcore screeches by the triple-voice onslaught brings something different to the table and is one of the most noticeably good things about this band's sound. Relapse has good taste. *www.uphillbattle.com*—***PR***
CCC

VARIOUS ARTISTS *Location Is Everything Vol. 2* (Jade Tree)
You have to give seminal emo stable Jade Tree its due. Tim Owen and Darren Walters' little DIY project made good has put out some fine, influential music over the last 14 years, and continue to expand its repertoire and palette. Indeed, *Location Is Everything Vol. 2* is taken best as a response to allegations that the label doesn't stray from its emo agenda; you only have to hear Cex's electro-industrial-hop fit "Kill Me" for proof. From there, the disc shuffles through the metalcore of From Ashes Rise, the space-pop of Ester Drang and of course, the damaged chime of Tim Kinsella's Joan Of Arc. There's still too much flat half-punk, but to its credit, *Location* is less disposable than most samplers. *www.jadetree.com*—***JM***
CCC

VARIOUS ARTISTS *Thank You* (Temporary Residence Ltd.)
Named Temporary Residence Ltd., the label positions itself as a launch pad for independent bands. Or it could be the complete opposite and Temporary Residence is secretly hiding this stable of great bands from us. Highlights include the sparse, blippy, electronic pop of Fridge's opener, "Five Combs," a song culled from the same blueprint the Postal Service have on their drafting table. There's also the Kilowatthours w/JDV combination of light, acoustic strumming and distortion-heavy fuzz on "Jignauseum." Tarantel and Explosions In The Sky flex some Mogwai muscle on "Bell Jar" and "The Long Spring," respectively. Essentially comprised of avant-garde instrumentals (with the exception of the mellow folk haze of Halifax Pier), this compilation gives you 11 new bands to put on your music radar. *www.temporaryresidence.com*—***BP***
CCCC

WIDESPREAD PANIC WITH THE DIRTY DOZEN BRASS BAND *Night Of Joy* (Sanctuary/EMI)
Widspread Panic are unapologetic about their jam-based, Southern-fried music, operating under the radar, while logging success in sell-out tours and cult followings rather than chart hits. On this live offering, recorded at the House Of Blues in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, the band enlist the services of The Dirty Dozen Brass Band and trim their meandering opuses to manageable lengths. What emerges is a band with more soul than usual, manifested particularly in John Bell's gruff vocals. The brass adds a worldly touch to Panic's dusty jams and all the regulars play with the requisite amount of skill and stamina. But even for a band that lives and dies by its live show, a live album isn't the best place to experiment with new sounds. This will amuse fans, but won't result in widespread acceptance. *www.widespreadpanic.com*—***JM***
CCC

ZEKE *'Til The Livin' End* (Relapse)
Release after release, Zeke topped themselves. *Kicked In The Teeth*'s wall-of-sound led to the vicious attack of *Dirty Sanchez* and *Death Alley*'s intelligent serial killer nature. But such a fast-paced rock 'n' roll lifestyle also led to the band's untimely demise. Back from the dead, minus one guitar player, *'Til The Livin' End* — well, it's not a topper. It sees Zeke on the other side of that steep mountain where songs are good — well written and certainly within the tight, angry confines of true Zeke — but there's something missing. The fire isn't burning as hot. Songs are slightly lethargic like a grumbling, bitter old man instead of an enraged young punker, resulting in something you appreciate but aren't hot for. *'Til The Livin' End* is a strong album, but it suffers from sounding less intense and even a bit tired. *www.relapse.com*—***KC***
CCC

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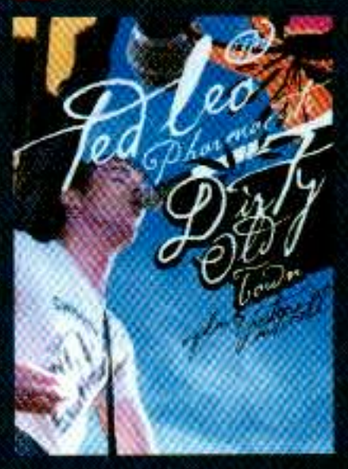
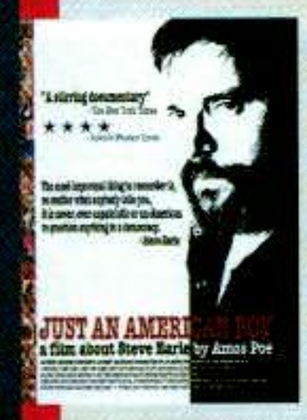


TED LEO/PHARMACISTS *Dirty Old Town* (Plexifilm/Sonic Unyon)
Singer-songwriter Ted Leo's punk values and indie spirit are thrust into the foreground of this excellent DVD filmed on the day of Leo's band, Pharmacists, show at Coney Island's Siren Festival. The backdrop of the Cyclone, the boardwalk and Nathan's hot dog stand — not to mention the awesome freak show — highlight Leo's old-school ideology and provides the perfect setting for his brand of melodic punk rock. Great interviews and good music make this a worthwhile purchase for fans of Leo and Coney Island alike. The bonus features aren't great — with the exception of the footage of Pharmacists playing on the day of the East Coast power outage, using Starbucks' van generator as the power supply.—***JH***
CCC

THE CRAMPS *Live At Napa State Mental Hospital* (Target/MVD)
It figures this concert is infamous. Shot mid-1978, it's short — less than a dozen songs — but it's not about the music or the so-so quality. It's about watching how well The Cramps interact with patients who are having an *awesome* time dancing about to their infectiously creepy, strutting punkabilly.—***KC***
CCC

DURAN DURAN *Sing Blue Silver* (EMI)
DURAN DURAN *Arena* (EMI)
As 30-something women rejoice over Duran's return, these two vintage discs show what all the fuss was about in the first place. *Sing Blue Silver*, a rock documentary following Duran Duran around during their 1984 North American tour is a fascinating study, even if you can't stand the band. *Arena* (Duran's live concert/sci-fi fantasy) hasn't aged as well, but should still get true fans' nostalgic juices flowing.—***ECB***
Sing Blue Silver CCCC *Arena* CCC



STEVE EARLE *Just An American Boy* (E Squared/Artemis)
Just An American Boy follows Earle's recent rash of political outspokeness, starting with the hoopla surrounding his song, "John Walker's Blues." There's nothing Earle loves better than talking about himself, so director Poe turns the camera on the singer as he speaks about September 11, the death penalty, heroin abuse and much more. A good watch, especially for the already converted.—***ECB***
CCC

VARIOUS ARTISTS *DJ Academy: Semester 01* (Scratch/Ryko)
This is a university-like symposium that gets intellectual about the business of producing and juggling beats. Like scientists clicking through PowerPoint presentations, this DVD showcases big-name DJs like A-Trak, DJ Premier and Jam Master Jay sitting on over-stuffed stuffed couches talking about their craft. It's perfect for pros, but there could be more live juggling and less jiving.—***MA***
CCC

WARREN ZEVON *(Inside) Out* (Artemis)
This VH1 special documenting the final recording sessions for Warren Zevon's *The Wind* is a straightforward but touching tribute to the most underrated singer-songwriter of the '80s and '90s. If you aren't moved by Zevon's simple performance of his final goodbye, "Keep Me In Your Heart For Awhile," you don't have a heart. Includes over an hour of bonus footage and interviews. Enjoy every sandwich.—***The Mouth***
CCCC