

World Trade Center

Paramount Home Entertainment,
12, £19.99 ★★★★★



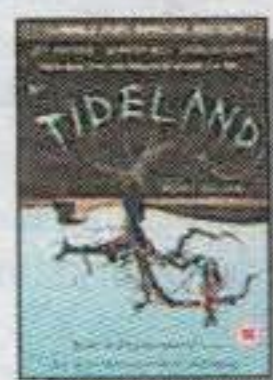
Oliver Stone's 'true story of courage and survival' launches into the exact scenario you feared a Hollywood epic about 9/11

would cover: a crew of loveable, ethnically diverse firemen, led by Nicolas Cage, storming heroically into the World Trade Center to save lives, only to get trapped by rubble – and stay trapped there, for the entire film. Which, interestingly, makes this an 'inaction' movie, where bravery is about the spirit. The emotive cuts to the panicking wives at home – Maria Bello and a pregnant Maggie Gyllenhaal – are actually necessary given the otherwise claustrophobic interior setting. But, unusually for Stone, this is so careful how it treads politically, it fails to move. In fact, it's really just a nice message about 'people taking care of each other'. This is all good – but as a memorial to 9/11, it can't hold a candle to the grainier realism of British triumph United 93.

Extras: Commentaries by Oliver Stone and real-life survivors. *LI-Z*

Tideland

Revolver Entertainment,
15, £19.99 ★★★★★



Director Terry Gilliam described his latest film as 'Alice In Wonderland meets Psycho' – but that doesn't begin to

cover the twisted darkness of this fairy tale. This is a movie so peculiar, it's as though Gilliam fell asleep and trapped us inside his nightmare. This is a polite way of saying that not everyone

THE CRITICAL DVD ROUND-UP

will enjoy the rambling strangeness of this unique, woozily-shot tale seen through the eyes of survivalist fantasist ten-year-old Jeliza-Rose (the astonishing Jodelle Ferland). She's a little girl who talks to dolly-heads stuck on her fingers – her only friends after her hippy, heroin-addicted dad (Jeff Bridges) abandons her in his empty childhood home in a cornfield, where neighbours are a barking mad beekeeper (Janet McTeer) and her retarded brother, an amateur taxidermist. The results are gruesome. Love David Lynch or Gus Van Sant? Try going down this rabbit hole.

Extras: Gilliam's commentary, plus extra disc with interviews, hour-long making-of featurette, Q&As. *LI-Z*

Blackalicious: 4/20 Live In Seattle

Wienerworld, £15.99 ★★★★★



The Blackalicious partnership of Chief Xcel and Gift Of Gab has been producing startlingly innovative hip hop

out of California's Bay Area for more than 15 years but this is the first time one of their live gigs has been committed to DVD. Recorded in Seattle last year, Blackalicious offer up a career-spanning set-list of blistering tracks, kicking off with Alphabet Aerobics, the renegade hit that sparked major label interest, and ending with an adrenalin-fuelled, Parliament-style jam on stage with fellow Quannum collective artists Lateef, Pigeon John, Lifesavas and The Pharcyde's Fat Lip, all bouncing off each

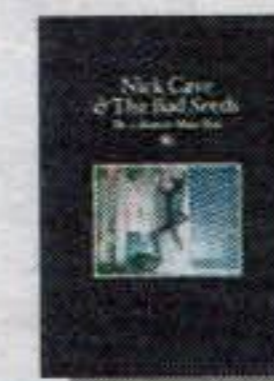
other's skills. Gift Of Gab's astonishing lyrical dexterity is transfixing, while the dirty funk ethos of the live backing musicians and Chief Xcel's liberating, anything-goes approach to DJing make for a powerful concert. The footage is interspersed with interview snippets with the pair talking about their beginnings, influences and career to date.

Extras: A tour of the tour bus, Deception music video.

Siobhan Murphy

Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds: The Abattoir Blues Tour

Mute Films, £17.99 ★★★★★



'They're not for everyone but I love my songs – they're smoking at the back of the bus, sniggering at the other songs.'

fawns a dapper old Nick in the illuminating but somewhat frustratingly short documentary that accompanies this two-disc chronicle of 2004's European trek. And that year's double-barrelled opus, Abattoir Blues/The Lyre Of Orpheus, surely was smoking. Except for a rather perfunctory, four-song nod to back catalogue glories, disc one's Brixton Academy performance delves deep into the apocalyptic melodrama of Abattoir Blues and the jazzy, textured elegance of The Lyre. A more varied tryst is to be had on disc two, where an earlier London gig offers rare, surprisingly reinvigorated takes on drug-soaked 1980s ballads such as The Birthday Party tear-jerker Wild World. Also available with audio CDs, the live firepower alone recommends this taste of a career high.

Extras: Behind-the-scenes featurette, making-of featurette, promotional videos.

Nadine McBay