



HALF-COCKED

★★★
 (Rumur) Before it was a marketing word, "indie" rock stretched across the shallow south, with towns like Louisville, KY becoming momentary cultural meccas incubating bands like Slint and Rodan. Despite a title that could be applied to the non-actor's performances, *Half-Cocked* captures the wet-brick Midwest scene, featuring all the black-Converse flophouse glory of those days when it was released in 1995. The simple plot follows some disenfranchised Louisville kids (played by Tara Jane O'Neil, Jeff Mueller, Cynthia Nelson and Jason Noble—who played in about 40 dozen bands between them) stealing a van full of instruments from the Guiteens, led by the über-sassy Ian Svenonius. Quaintly '90s all the way. **JR**



BEAT KINGS: THE HISTORY OF HIP HOP

★★★★
 (Nature Sounds) So, you wanna make beats? Well here's a good place to start, because as DJ Premier reminds us, "A lot of cats out there do not know the history." Wu-Tang Clan's very own DJ Mathematics provides a who's who collection of legendary hip-hop heavyweights, ranging from Marley Marl to Kanye West (whose 30-second tirade is not to be missed), as they discuss the evolution of hip-hop production and how, as Prince Paul puts it, "to take instruments that weren't meant for hip-hop... and make 'em hip-hop!" From the MPC 60 and the SP 1200 to how Pro Tools has changed the game for better or worse—it's all squeezed into this hour-long "hip-hop-umentary." **ER**



SLICES: RICHIE HAWTIN

★★★
 (Sense) American techno genius or the gurning posterboy for Berlin expatriates, Richie Hawtin has always garnered attention beyond that of his peers. So it's little surprise that he would be the first techno icon to be the subject of an in-depth documentary. The producers trace Hawtin back to his earliest roots, before reveling in barely or never-before-seen footage and photos of the legendary '90s Detroit techno scene. Focusing on the iconic Plastikman recordings, while giving short stick to the equally revolutionary *Decks, EFX and 909* mix CDs, it still gives a good look at the considerable scope of Hawtin's 15-year career. It closes with Hawtin promising an end to the music-making hiatus he's been on since 2003. Promising indeed. **JS**



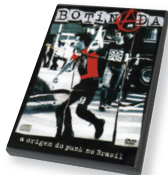
BLACKALICIOUS: 4/20 LIVE IN SEATTLE

★★★★
 (MVD Visual) Who's high? A Blackalicious show in Seattle on marijuana's birthday? Everybody's high. However, when the assuredly rotund Gift of Gab gobbles up that stage, no outside stimulants are required. One of hip-hop's most memorable live acts, Blackalicious finally captures that elemental essence on DVD with the release of *4/20 Live in Seattle*. While it's tempting to watch the straight concert, the backstage interviews—optional in viewing preferences from the main menu—are short and entertaining enough to provide a nice pace to the NoCal crew's ball-busting onstage speed. And maybe even serve as an excuse to light that bong. **SB**



BOTINADA: A ORIGEM DO PUNK NO BRASIL

★★★★
 (ST2) When I think of Brazil, I think of jungles and Carnival, never of punk rock. It's hard to imagine a punk scene rising from the streets of Brazil around the same time punk was rising in places such as New York and London. *Botinada* takes you through streets of Brazil, demonstrating just how big punk was in the late-'70s/early-'80s. Gone may be their mohawks and spiked jewelry, but for the pioneers of the Brazilian scene, the spirit is alive. Violence, destruction and noise: That's punk rock, and they knew how to do it in Brazil, from Molotov cocktails to bands playing at galleries for artsy snobs. Countless interviews, performance clips and old-school flyer artwork make this DVD enjoyable for the punk fans of the world. **EP**



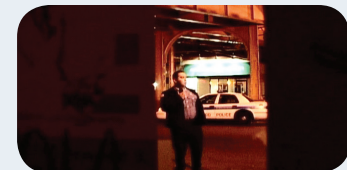
EXTREME CHICKFIGHTS

★★★★
 (Image) Well, just so your testosterone-filled mind doesn't wander through this review—shit is that extreme, that important—there are some boobies revealed on this DVD. However, if "hardcore 2-on-1 action" involving sisters means porn, or means nothing to you, *Extreme Chickfights* probably isn't what you're looking for. While most match-ups are relatively mild—despite the best efforts of the nearly all-male spectators, screamo bands playing the blood soundtrack and "extreme" voice-cracking announcers—there are a few moments of serious fuckin' carnage. If the latter is a special type of hidden pr0n for ya', check out Diamond vs. Thunder Kat for a no-gloves, no-headgear bloody explosion of a climax. Ewwwwwwww. **A**



RED BULL BC ONE: BREAKDANCING CHAMPIONSHIP

★★★
 (Destroy Network) Four elements of hip-hop, yeah, I know. But I'm ready to institute a new rule: At a top-40/hip-hop dance club—when I'm getting my grind on with a shawty or two—don't start poppin' or lockin'. Bring that cardboard box outside; no one wants to catch an errant leg during a less-than-proper pumping turtle. Red Bull's Breakdancing Championship is a preferred place for headspins, but only if you're truly trill. Here, the 2005 tournament hosted by the city of Berlin, the best of the best gather to drop gravity/biology-defying stunts. And like all sacred American inventions, the tourney finals feature Korea's Hong 10 and France's Lilou. It's the bucket-hatted, Frenchie who steals the show with crazy quick footwork and a wild-style all his own. Just as long as he isn't half-steppin' during Britney's "Toxic." **SB**



LAIBACH: DIVIDED STATES OF AMERICA

★★★★
 (Mute) This is a fascinating, if troubled tour documentary. For those unfamiliar with Laibach, they're an aggro industrial-rock group hailing from the former Yugoslavia who, as one fan puts it, are into "conspiracy theories, Illuminati and Freemasonry." Their "Divided States of America" tour that kicked off in D.C. one day after Dubya got four more years definitely hit the good ol' USA at a heated, polarizing moment. This is mostly about fans reactions to the elections in light of their passion for Laibach, who seem to stand for things that, let's say, lie outside the margins of what's "safe" and "normal." Sometimes the whole shtick tries so hard, you just giggle. **CM**

