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## Reggae, rap and more cool titles

By Rob Watson  
Inquirer Staff Writer

When major holidays fall in the middle of the week, chances are new DVD pickings will be slim. If the holiday is on the usual Tuesday release date, like the Fourth of July, things are hopeless.

So, sorry to disappoint those of you looking for reviews of this week's gems, including *Ultra Vixens: Asians III* or *Shock X-treme Volume 4: Real Fights*, because we are choosing to reflect on some titles we missed and some we can't wait to see in the near future.

This summer has brought a slew of great music DVDs and there are a couple of cool titles on the way.

Last month's release of *Black Uhuru With Sly & Robbie: Dubbin' It Live* was special, considering the reggae group's DVD, recorded live in Switzerland, was a reunion 10 years in the making. Though consciousness-raising reggae is making a commercial comeback (the *Capleton: Live in San Francisco* DVD also gets high marks), there is nothing like *Black Uhuru*, and there probably never will be.

July 25th is one monster of a release date for music DVDs. First up is the Beastie Boys' concert film, *Awesome: I... Shot That!* The rap group gave out 50 video cameras to fans to record a 2004 show at Madison Square Garden. The film has gotten some rave reviews, and the DVD offers crazy extras, including the option to switch camera angles while watching. The other music DVD release that day is the '79 punk classic *Rude Boy*. Part punk rockumentary, part British social activism, and part case study on the early days of the Clash.

*Afropunk*, a documentary chronicling the black punk-rock movement, has us salivating as well. Fishbone, Bad Brains, 24-7 Spyz are featured. Need we say more? Expect a review of that one next week.

We will try to expand coverage of DVDs on anime and related 'toons, too. July 25 marks the DVD release of *The Boondocks: The Complete First Season*, based on a comic strip that runs in *The Inquirer*. The show's creator, Aaron McGruder (whom we rarely hear from these days), speaks out in the extras, and there are printable storyboards. Best to stock up on some good paper and plenty of color print cartridges. In addition to *Boondocks* and the Beasties, July 25 also will see the first disc of the world-dominating (not) animaniacs *Pinky and the Brain*.

What to review? We'll try to figure something out.

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Contact staff writer Rob Watson at 215-854-5608 or [rwatson@phillynews.com](mailto:rwatson@phillynews.com).