

The Electric Review

JAZZ SHOTS - EAST COAST VOLUMES 2 AND 3. Various artists. MVD Video Distribution.

Too many times, music compilations will try and fill space with interviews and introductions – endless talk meant to do little more than use up time between the three or so fragmented songs interspersed in between. Not so with **East Coast Jazz Shots Volumes 2 & 3**, recently released by MVD. These disks are about the music (sans talk!), and they provide a great look back at the East's influence on Jazz – an astounding glimpse into the players from the Atlantic-side of the country who so heavily influenced the “be-bop” rhythms of Jack Kerouac's spontaneous prose circa 1956. In essence, Kerouac and many other literary masters were drawn to Jazz because it sought to strike a delicate balance between the intellectual and the emotional – a music of deep breadth and introspection that is able to communicate without a dependency on words. In this respect, the players whose roots are in the Eastern states were pioneers and innovators, and their compositions have come to truly define the meaning of the genre – their sound worming its way into the many distant layers of our flesh, becoming these hallowed parts of our histories and memories. Listeners will be drawn to the Miles Davis Quintet and to Charlie Parker's “Hothouse” (from Volume 2), in addition to John Coltrane's “Alabama” (from Volume 3) -- among so many other highlights. *These DVDs are highly recommended to both Jazz collectors and to novice listeners looking for a thoughtful journey into the best of the idiom. Volume 2 runs 74 minutes; Volume 3 runs 95 minutes.* ~**John Aiello**