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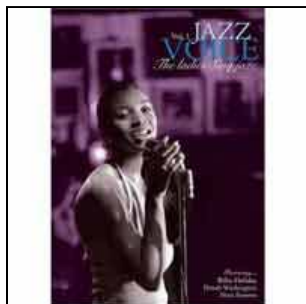
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# CRIME *in* STEREO

## DVD

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## The Jazz Voice Vols. 1 & 2: The Ladies Sing Jazz

Feat: Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Peggy Lee, Lena Horne...

*Eforfilms*

Unbelievably great DVD compendium of the best new and old Metal videos around... *Reviewed In-Brief*

The Jazz Voice Vols. 1 & 2: The Ladies Sing Jazz

Feat: Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Peggy Lee, Lena Horne...

*Eforfilms*

Explore the origins of modern music in these vintage live performances from 20<sup>th</sup> century jazz divas

Ever wonder where Beth Gibson and Alison Goldfrapp get that weary blue-moon croon, heavy with scent and sensuality? In a direct line of succession from jazz legends like Billie Holiday. How about that ecstatic scat that's made Jamie Cullum such a talking point? Straight from jazz's ultimate big mama, Ella Fitzgerald. The soulful pipes of Corinne Bailey McRae? Check out Peggy Lee and Lena Horne.

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Just as the black blues musicians of America's south caught the imaginations of young white boys from London in the 60s, the jazz divas showcased on these two DVDs have inspired much of what we know today as soul and R&B, not to mention the wild-side excursions of outfits like Portishead and Goldfrapp.

## FESTIVALS06



Collected here are a rag-bag of performances from these famous names and others perhaps less familiar; check out Volume 2's four songs from the archly abrasive Carmen McRae, whose world-weary rendition of Cole Porter's *Love For Sale* mingles rhythmic experimentation with a kind of brutal cynicism.

Volume 1's eight performances from Billie Holiday pitilessly illustrate her drug-fuelled decline, from an early version of *The Blues Are Brewin'*, all satin gown and gardenia glamour, through an expansive *Fine And Mellow* and a haunted, horrorstruck *Strange Fruit* to a cracked and haggard attempt at *Easy To Remember*.



Following on are six cuts from the wonderful Nina Simone, probably the biggest single musical influence on the late Jeff Buckley and - in her floating, mellifluous but mournful vocal melodies - on Thom Yorke, as well. Simone bring jazz sensibilities to a range of styles, from the tribal, percussive *There Is A Book Of Love* to the folk-tune simplicity of *When I Was In My Prime*. It's on the sublime *For All We Know*, though, that her claims to be an exponent of "black classical music" are most obvious.



Other points on Volume 1 included Dinah Washington's recovery blues *I Don't Hurt Anymore*; on Volume 2, Sarah Vaughan's peerless version of jazz/pop classic *Misty* is one of six selections from the gospel-trained diva. Also included there is a clip from the 1943 movie *Stormy Weather*, in which Lena Horne performs the famous song of the same name.



There are big-band singers here, too, like June Christy -- and big-name jazz instrumentalists like Benny Goodman, Dizzy Gillespie and Louis Armstrong make fleeting appearances. However, DVDs would have greatly benefited from information about the date and origin of some of the clips - they seem culled from a range of sources including TV appearances, movies and live shows. Given the age of much of the source footage, sound and picture quality is also very variable -- with some of the Holiday performances marred by savage editing.



Nevertheless, whether you're a veteran jazz enthusiast or a rock fan who wants to understand some of modern music's less obvious influences, you could do a lot worse than invest in these intriguing DVDs.



By **Clare O'Brien**

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