

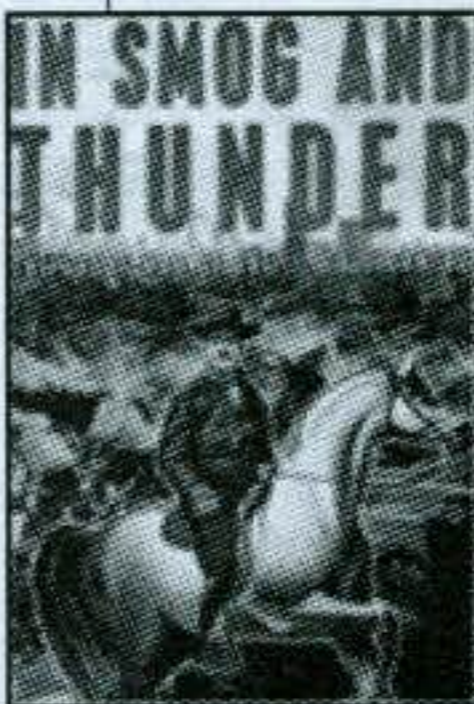


Goldfinger
"The Show Must Go Off!"
 (KUNG FU)

Hot damn, aren't you stoked it's baseball season again? I mean, seriously, how do we even make it through these winters? Winters mean not enough time out in the sun and too much time in front of the TV watching horrid "punk" bands with too much flare prance about a stage at the House of Blues. Now, I'd like to believe that as a species we've moved beyond the whole ska/punk nonsense that Goldfinger is so fond of, but I'd also like to believe we're beyond genocide and rape, yet those seem to be happening all the time too. Judging by the throngs of awkwardly goofy kids at the show, Goldfinger still has quite a pull with those of you who still proudly rock your ratty old Skankin' Pickle t-shirt. Crowd favorites seemed to include the uppity "Superman" and the too-whiney-to-be-an-anthem "Here in Your Bedroom", which work the crowd into a collective tizzy. This edition of "The Show Must Go Off!" sticks to the same tried and true formula of multiple camera angles as well as quite a few extras, including band commentary, a stills photo section, and other bonus material. Just be happy that it's summer now and you can go back to the beach on a daily basis and throw balls around outside with your buddies instead of actually watching Goldfinger DVDs.

www.goldfingermusic.com

Brian Greenaway



In Smog and Thunder: The Great War of the Californias

(SMART ART FILMS / POP TWIST ENTERTAINMENT)

Smog Town vs. Fog Town. Sunset Strip vs. The Castro. Los Angeles vs. San Francisco. There can be only one victor. "In Smog and Thunder" is a satirical take on traditional war documentaries and the quirks of northern Californians and southern Californians. No one is safe in this mocumentary. Every minority is hit, every sexuality is hit, every public icon is hit, every stereotype is beat to death, but it is all in a goodhearted and fun way. Tensions between L.A. and San Francisco have been growing for a long time and this is the portrayal of what finally happens when those tensions break. General Juan Gomez de los Angeles led the first assault in this tragic civil war by striking a surprise attack on the heart of San Francisco. From that point on, there was no turning back. Bodies littered the streets while modern day

generals on motorcycles directed platoons into combat. The fictional film is based on 120 satirical paintings by Sandow Birk. Even though Birk is from SoCal, he shows no favoritism in this film. What began as an art exhibit by Birk turned into an audio tour. The audio tour eventually led to the film. From the Bay Area's sneak attack on L.A.'s ports (it was sneaky because no one in L.A. realized they had ports) to the actress turned general who goes nowhere (not even to battle) without a ready supply of headshots, "In Smog and Thunder" has something for every Californian. The people of Los Angeles don't even realize they are involved in a civil war at first. Even when San Franciscans have flooded the freeways, left gaping holes in roads and fired at the traffic chopper, Angelenos go on about their day as though nothing was amiss. Meanwhile, the biggest worry about the war hitting San Francisco is whether or not people will still be able to drive over the Golden Gate Bridge without spilling their coffee. Birk also takes a hard crack at corporate America's greediness in advertising. Ads for Nike, CBS, Starbucks, and every other company under the American sun have bought space on every general's horse, city's battleship or porn star-turned-soldier's gun. There is no space to small that can't be advertised on. So get behind the San Franciscans or the Angelenos, pick up a gun, find a horse, drink a half rack of Miller and kill some enemies before they get past the 405.

www.insmogandthunder.com

Pete Soyer

DVD
 REVIEWS

The Vandals
"The Show Must Go Off!"
 (KUNG FU)

While I've enjoyed quite a bit of what the "The Show Must Go Off!" series brings to the table, I usually end up lamenting the poor production quality and static cameras at the venue, while the kinetic frontmen and aggressive guitarists flaunt their charismatic charms around the stage. Thankfully, this is not the case with The Vandals' offering to the clamoring hordes, as the stationary cameras are replaced by fully mobile and intrusive (sometimes too intrusive, as during Warren's spandex-clad rendition of "I Have a Date") units, which give the viewer a better sense of the action. And take it from a guy whose been to more than one Vandals' show (two), there is action a plenty. The laughs are nonstop and contagious, during such show-stoppers as "NIMBY" and "My Girlfriend's Dead", poking fun at that damn guy from the SNL band and busted-up relationships. Since it's the Vandals, you can count on plenty of tunes that just jam, and highlights include "Soccer Mom" and "Oi to the World", both featuring impressive guitar solos from Wayne as well as a camera that sits right behind the kick drum and captures the action admirably. What truly separates this one from the webcast-y feel of the previous "Show Must Go Off!" releases is the truly intimate showmanship of The Vandals, as their good time is vicariously passed on to the sweaty throngs. Give this one a shot.

www.thevandals.com



Brian Greenaway

Reno 911
"The Complete First Season"
 (COMEDY CENTRAL)

There are some things to shudder about when you think of Comedy Central (Let's Bowl, their recent decision to replace the Saturday Night Live reruns with MadTV reruns, etc), and Reno 911 is not one of them. Actually, it's the funniest non-cartoon television series I've seen since, oh, Chris Elliot's Get A Life. No, fuck it, it's funnier than that. If you are too poor for cable, the basic 'premise' is that it's a reality cop drama (ala Cops) following around seven cops in Reno, Nevada. All the usual stereotypes are here (gay guy, black guy, weasel racist guy, white trash lady, etc) which makes for fun writing, played by an almost-brilliant cast of fresh and seasoned actors/comedians. I especially enjoy the cameos (usually as criminals) by other comic's in various episodes (Nick Swardson, Ken Marino, etc) but I won't spoil the actual plotlines, so go buy this DVD and fill yourself in quickly; as season two just began. Also on this first season DVD are extra/cut scenes, which were amusing, as well as audio commentary, something I really didn't full explore because, well, I'm just not that much of a dork, I guess.



PR!



#61
"411Bam"
 (411VM)

Fans of the marketing machine that is Bam Margera rejoice; more material to watch, because all the films (Landspeed, CKY series, One Step Beyond, Haggard and (ugh) Grind) and television appearances (Jackass, Craig Kilborn and his own MTV show Viva La Bam) weren't enough! Try as might to despise the man, he puts on a good show and, more importantly, skates well. This is a two DVD disc set; the first... sorta features Bam. It's more like clips WITH Bam then anything else. The second disc, though almost better than the first, is very short - about half an hour, way under the 411 video time that I'm used to seeing. While the lack of more footage (especially Bam related) seems to scream "RUSHED!" I also believe that some Bam fans (because of his non-skate entertainment) may

purchase this thinking it will be similar to CKY, and those fans would be wrong; his 'crew' is painfully absent, making 411Bam #61 just a normal skate DVD... which isn't musically a bad thing.

www.411vm.com

PR!



U.K. Subs
"Punk Can Take It"
 (CLEOPATRA)

While U.K. Subs was at the heights of its fame, during the Another Kind of Blues era, it was filmed playing the Lyceum for use in this mockumentary. There are episodes of the band playing live, but this is no concert DVD and there are no complete songs. Instead, this was parody film in the tradition of World War II morale-boosting propaganda. Punks have it tough on the front lines in this funny film narrated by BBC voice-over legend John Snagge. Along with a photo gallery is another bonus feature, Nicky Garratt exhibiting his collection of U.K. Subs memorabilia. This includes albums, CDs, framed posters and news clipping with his explanations and commentary.

www.musicvideodistributors.com

Tom "Tearaway" Schulte