

This short-lived TV series originally aired in the UK but never found its way to American airwaves despite being bought by the Sci Fi Channel. Impish host Richard Metzger takes us from oddity to oddity along the cultural fringe to meet conspiracy theorists, performance artists and Satanists. Some highlights include the nonsensical ramblings of Brother Theodore, Salvador Dalí in an old Alka Seltzer commercial, artist Joe Coleman showing off his collection of grotesqueries which include a mummified saint and Kembra Pfahler having her vagina sewn shut. Funny too are a segment on a man who makes animated films of robots having sex, and excerpts from "Uncle Goddam," a home video by a rural family who light on fire and otherwise torture an elderly, very inebriated family member. Good times.

DISINFORMATION THE COMPLETE SERIES DVD



Disinfo.com

Director Justin Mitchell (Songs For Cassavetes) investigates indie Übermensch Ted Leo in this documentary blending high definition digital video, 16 mm, miniDV and digital stills. Don't come looking for a regular documentary in *Dirty Old Town*, though. Think of it more as a day-in-the-life thing: Woke up, jumped out of bed, dragged a comb across my head. Ran downstairs and drank a cup, drove to Coney Island and played a bunch of songs while people got heatstroke and couldn't find a bathroom. While the film may disappoint some as a tell-all, it takes a more subtle approach, allowing the vibrant and unassailable promenades of Coney Island just as loud a voice as Ted and the tunes.

DIRTY OLD TOWN TED LEO & THE PHARMACISTS VS. CONEY ISLAND



Plexifilm.com

A long time ago, back when skating vert was the shit and well-known skaters only came from California, Mark "Gator" Rogowski was as big or bigger than Tony Hawk and Christian Hosoi. Rogowski was so big, in fact, that Vision built their brand around the guy. Then, quick as you can say "has-been," street skating took over and Rogowski, who the doc demonstrates couldn't street skate for crap, was washed up. Though his fame and fortune were slipping away, Rogowski managed to keep it together for a while, and we even see an old ad from his Christian phase, but eventually he snaps and rapes and murders his ex-girlfriend's friend and buries her in the desert. Today, Rogowski is in prison in California where he's serving consecutive terms of six years for forcible rape and twenty-five years to life for first-degree murder.

STOKED THE RISE AND FALL OF GATOR



Palmpictures.com

Despite the commodification of "punk" as a lifestyle choice, it's hard to feel jaded watching home movies of old lions like the Ramones, Television and the Talking Heads back when they were young and fresh faced. While *Blank Generation* won't win any awards for cinematography, it's worthwhile because it captures an exciting moment in rock history without any hint of self-consciousness. It's like if there was a video of F. Scott Fitzgerald, Gertrude Stein and Hemingway during their time together in Paris in the '20s, you would want to see it even if it just showed them gossiping and sipping fruit brandies. *Dancing Barefoot In The Park* is a look at former Patti Smith Group guitarist Ivan Krall's years with Smith and then Iggy Pop. Taken together, *Blank Generation* and *Dancing Barefoot* form a compelling snapshot of a cool moment in music history.

BLANK GENERATION & DANCING BAREFOOT



MusicVideoDistributors.com

Subtitled "The Great War of the Californias," *In Smog and Thunder* tells the tale of a fictitious war between Los Angeles and San Francisco by tying together the many satirical sketches and paintings of Southern California surfer Sandow Birk. Though funny enough on their own, the paintings—an absurd mix of battle scenes, pop culture and historically incongruous elements—are given a Ken Burns treatment narratively and visually: a sober voice intones while sounds of horses, gunshots and men shouting orders carry on in the background. Interspersed are parodies of wartime propaganda posters. *Smog and Thunder* may be of most interest to those very familiar with the cultural Mason-Dixon line between the tanned, barbaric Confederates in the south and their latte-sipping, properly cultured neighbors around the bay to the north.

IN SMOG AND THUNDER THE GREAT WAR OF THE CALIFORNIAS



InSmogAndThunder.com

The new *Hot Chocolate* video feels like the tour video/after-credits section of a great skate video. You know, the kind when you watch it you get all happy and sentimental. But this one will also get you stoked to go outside and shred it up. Don't presume this video is the riders' extra footage, though—it's top-notch. Plus it's a tour video, so it references the amazing feeling of a (skate) road trip. And Marc Johnson drops this: "I spent so long searching for a point that the last year and a half of my life has gone by in a (snap) blink. If you're too busy wondering about it, you miss your life. It goes by and you're like, 'wow, man, there is no tomorrow.' Cause, [you know] what, like, you're gonna wake up tomorrow and it's not gonna be tomorrow anymore. It's now. All you have is right now."

HOT CHOCOLATE CHOCOLATE SKATEBOARDS DVD



ChocolateSkateboards.com