

## David Markey

★★★★★

### Cut Shorts: A Collection Of Short Films And Music Videos From 1974-2004

ELECTRIC DVD

The LA underground filtered through a bargain-basement lens.

Best known for his era-defining film 1991: *The Year Punk Broke*, LA auteur David Markey has pursued a singularly perverse path. *Cut Shorts* is a welcome compilation of his work that takes in *Sonic Youth* (the *I Love You Golden Blue* video), *The Posies* (their powerpop take on *The Germs'* *Ritchie Dagger's Crime*) and *Krist Novoselic's Eyes Adrift*. The real meat, though, is the homemade-style films featuring Thurston Moore, Kim Gordon, Julie Cafritz, Mark Ibold and Sofia Coppola. 1992's *Grunge Pedal* hilariously puts grunge bandwagoneers in their place, while *Rap Damage* finds Moore searching LA for the hip-hop rabbit. Early films include Markey's creepy Super-8 interpretation of *The Exorcist* – made after his parents wouldn't let him see the film at the cinema.

Plasticland's disturbing dreamscape features toy elephants and tin foil, while the perverse *Popcorn* perfectly captures the scary clown image. A wonderful tribute to a real maverick.

Kieron Tyler

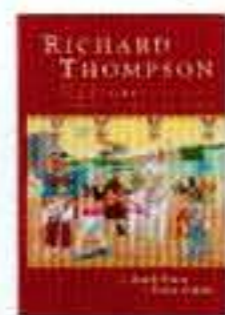
## Richard Thompson

★★★★★

### 1000 Years Of Popular Music

COOKING VINYL

2005 live show encompassing everything from medieval ballads to Britney.



When Richard Thompson was approached by *Playboy* magazine in 1999 to submit his favourite music of the last millennium, he took them at their word, with a list that dated back to the 10th century. His choices were never published, but it gave him the theme for this show, recorded in San Francisco, with Debra Dobkin on percussion and vocals, and Judith Owen on keyboards and vocals. It's a puckish concept, and although Thompson self-deprecatingly maintains he is unqualified to sing 98 per cent of the material, musically it's a success. This good-humoured performance starts with *Summer Is Icumen In*, a big hit in 1260. Oops!... *I Did It Again* sounds rigorously Thompsonian. Other highlights include a yearning version of *The Kinks'* *See My Friends* and a take on 18th-century murder ballad *Bonnie St Johnstone*. Judith Owen shines too, especially when she takes over lead vocals for *Cole Porter's Night And Day*.

Mike Barnes

## High Tech Soul

★★★★★ PLEXI

How mid-'80s Detroit went robo-disco.

Techno may have slowly drained from the public consciousness in later years, but this hour-long documentary brilliantly rekindles the initial excitement and mystique that followed the first mind-bending tunes out of Motor City, from the pioneering Juan Atkins, Kevin Saunderson and Derrick May. After much speculation about why techno erupted particularly in that city (Blake Baxter: "Our parents came home from the automobile plants talking about how they worked with robots"), we meet the three heroes. Atkins and Saunderson are cool, mellow guys, but it's May – articulate, visionary, mischievous, variously described as "a classic artist" and "a prima donna from fucking hell" – who lights up the whole film. There's intriguing stuff about how money offers from aiiiced-crazed England saw the scene descend into greed. On the minus side, there's no interview with *Underground Resistance's* secretive leader, Mike Banks. Extras include gratuitous slaggings of Moby and Paul Oakenfold, plus a guide to the key technology.

Andrew Perry

## Pink Floyd

★★★★★

### Pulse

EMI

Long-awaited restoration of Floyd's 1994 live monolith.

Unavailable since the obsolescence of the VHS format, *Pink Floyd's* gargantuan, post-Roger Waters *Pulse* set from 1994 captures the three-piece of David Gilmour, Nick Mason and Richard Wright in full stadium-straddling mode. Indeed, some

# DVD EXTRA

BY FRED DELLAR, DAVID KATZ, CHRIS NELSON, CHARLES WARING AND LOIS WILSON

## Dennis Brown

★★★

### Live At Reggae Canfest 1999

CASCADE

Possibly his last concert before his sad death in 1999, and it's clear from the performance that Dennis Brown is in poor health. Nevertheless, over 40 minutes he delivers a greatest hits set, with a memorable start. Guest spots are many – Lloyd Parks, a slack *Lady Saw* – but it's Frankie Paul and Admiral Tibbet who stand out from the crowd. *DK*

## Ike Turner & The Kings Of Rhythm

★★★

### Live In Concert 2002

CHARLY



Attired in a silver-spangled suit that looks like a Gary Glitter cast-off, Ike treats a Dutch audience to an energetic performance of his vintage tunes, which range from the proto-rock'n'roller *Rocket 88* to the strutting rock-meets-soul of *Proud Mary*. Extras include a riveting 30-minute documentary showing rare '50s and '60s footage. *CW*

## Willie Nelson

★★★

### Some Enchanted Evening

FABULOUS FILMS

It's live Willie circa 1988, and unbelievable Willie at that. He's togged up in bow tie and evening suit, playing from a music stand while the champagne-quaffing audience

applauds his trademark weary renditions of *Spanish Eyes*, *Moon River* and other worn oldies from his *What A Wonderful World* album. It ought to be awful. But the Nelson charm ensures that all remains palatable. *FD*

## Union City

★★★★★

TARTAN VIDEO

Debbie Harry as disillusioned housewife Lillian makes her lead acting debut in this claustrophobic 1980 punk *noir*, directed and scripted by Mark Reichert and based on Cornell Woolrich's *The Corpse Next Door* from 1937. The plot is wonderfully ludicrous – stolen milk leads to murder – but it's Harry's disquieting on-screen relationship with co-star Dennis Lipscomb, who plays Harlan, her emotionally estranged hubby, that makes this so watchable. Chris Stein provides the score. *LW*

## Johnny Cash

★★★

### The Man In Black: Live In Denmark 1971

COLUMBIA LEGACY



Folsom it ain't. Shot before grannies and youngsters on a barn-like soundstage, *MIB* features a well-oiled revue from Cash's post-San Quentin heyday. Not much grit, but plenty of grins as Cash shares the stage with Carl Perkins, the Statler Brothers, June Carter and The Carter Family. It's downright polite, but don't let that scare you. *CN*

## Roy Harper

★★★★★

### Beyond The Door

SCIENCE FICTION

Debut live DVD/CD set from Britain's defiant folk imp.

"I was horrified when I first saw some of the footage," admits Harper in his candid liner notes. For a man who has spent close to 20 years without a major label, three nights-worth of near-unusable footage shot in a dimly lit De Barras Folk Club, Clonakilty, could have seriously damaged his financial health. But with editor/director Jon Mitton, the result is a warm, homespun triumph. Harper's skill as a raconteur and underrated guitarist illuminate a series of live performances and added impressionistic footage reflects the inspiration behind each song. Among extras, the animated video for his *Death Of God* single, a mordant gaze at the Iraq War, proves Harper's caustic power is undimmed.

Phil Alexander

Phil Alexander



Derrick May: Motor City maniac.