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MOJO

The Music Magazine

GUNS N' ROSES

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Various

★★★★★

American Pimp: Raw Outtakes & The Hard Truth

SHOUT! FACTORY

The American pimp, a long-time underground icon, is finally receiving his due.

When America's black power movement segued into popular culture, the pimp became a ubiquitous figure. Whether plots hinged on his presence, or he provided mere comedy relief, rapacious, fur coat-clad black men, backed by a veritable army of hardworking whores, became a mainstay in blaxploitation films like *Shaft* and *Dolemite*. Musicians, too, latched onto the urban anti-hero, alternately singing his praises or condemning his treatment of the fairer sex. *American Pimp*, Albert and Allen Hughes' 1999 documentary, proves that mythology and music are inseparable: bluesman Fillmore Slim and rapper Snoop Dogg have paid the bills by pimping out hookers, as, on the flipside, Curtis Mayfield and Rick James wrote hits about the predatory males. An extensive interview with Snoop and a long-awaited soundtrack, which features Leon Haywood's stellar *I Want'a Do Something Freaky To You* alongside Isaac Hayes' *Pursuit Of The Pimpmobile*, Marvin Gaye's *Don't Mess With Mister T*, and other timeless tracks, hammer that point home.

Andria Lisle

Arthur Russell

★★★★★

World Of Echo

AUDIKA/ROUGH TRADE

Expanded World Of Echo CD plus a DVD of two live 1985 performances.

There are precious few concert films that properly translate either the excitement of live

music or any sense of intimate connection with their subject. Arthur Russell, the late exponent of what Allen Ginsberg termed, "Buddhist bubblegum music", is an unlikely candidate for getting the equation right. Throughout *Terrace Of Unintelligibility* (19 minutes) and *And Some Imaginary Far Away Type Things* (33 minutes), we never properly see him; instead, the camera moves closely over his hands, mouth and other body parts while background light sources shift and change colour. It's the music that provides the transport of delight; as his light, close voice hums and free-forms, he plays a kind of abstract funk cello that's highly rhythmic, full of space and inexplicably emotional. If those familiar with Russell's extraordinary disco dub output find this a little too ethereal, it's still an invaluable way of better fathoming his fascinating legacy.

Ian Harrison

Dexys Midnight Runners

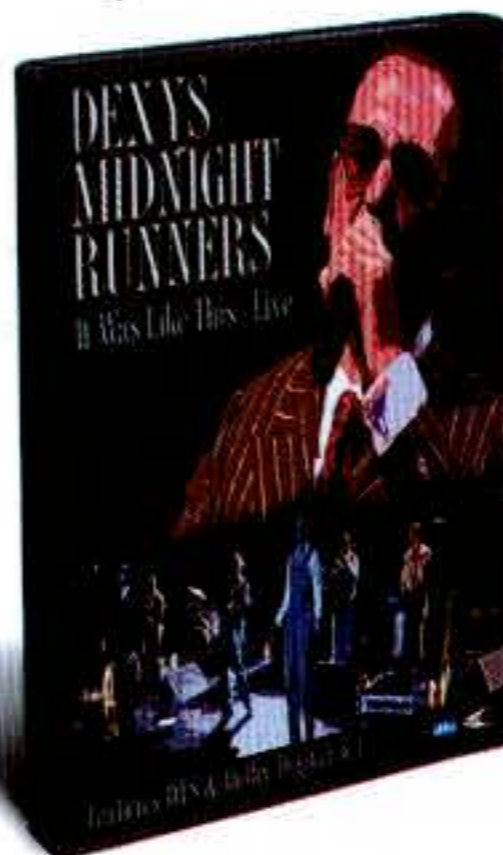
★★★★★

It Was Like This - Live

ILC MUSIC

Dexys at Liverpool's Royal Concert Hall, 7/11/2003.

Kevin Rowland took a brave step when he decided to tour with a new Dexys Midnight Runners for the first time in 18 years. After all, it was in the wake of his failed solo album, *My Beauty*, and his ill-received frock wearing at Reading Festival. Undeterred, Rowland challenged perceptions once more; instead of presenting a greatest hits package, he eschewed Dexys' most famous songs, with the exception of reinterpreted versions of *Geno* and *Come On Eileen*, in favour of album tracks, B-sides, new songs and a cover of The Commodores' *Nightshift*. Highlights are plentiful - an intense *I Couldn't Help It* if



Tried in which Rowland trades lines with original member Pete Williams, joyous renditions of *Listen To This* and *This Is What She's Like* to name but a few. The extras are excellent too - lengthy interviews with Williams, organist Mick Talbot and violinist Lucy Morgan. Sadly no Kevin though.

Jon Harrington

Radiohead Television

★★★★★

The Most Gigantic Lying Mouth Of All Time

WASTE

Wouldn't it be great if Radiohead had a TV station? Well, actually, yes...

"They told us they could get us our own station," explains Thom Yorke in the notes to this Radiohead sanctioned release. By the time the news arrived that Radiohead TV may not be possible after all, it was too late. Aspiring film-makers had already responded to the band's requests for tapes. Some were very funny. Vernie Yeung's *Chickenbomb* diagrammatically tells you how to evacuate Camden Town armed only with a rotten chicken. Others are more clearly the work of fans. Juan Pablo Etcheberry's film for *Where I End And You Begin* is a balletic paean to co-dependency played out by two clay fig-

DVD EXTRA

BY STEVIE CHICK, FRED DELLAR, SID GRIFFIN
JAN UHELSZKI AND LOIS WILSON

Bob Dylan

★★★

Tales From A Golden Age: Bob Dylan 1941-1966

CHIRONO DREAMS

The only triumph here is the lengthy discography. *Tales* contains no original Dylan music, no interview with him, hardly any film clips, and leaves the narrative to drummer Mickey Jones, folkie Martin Carthy, Dylan scholar Clinton Heylin, Bob's high school English teacher BJ Rolfzen, writer CP Lee and various classmates, often unidentified. SG

Stray Cats

★★★★★

Rumble In Brixton

SURFDOG



This captures Brian Setzer's rockabilly trio, live in 2003 after a 12 year hiatus, at Brixton Academy with a set bulging with signature hits including *Rock This Town*, *Rumble In Brighton*, *Runaway Boys* and *Stray Cat Strut*. Extensive extras include behind the scenes footage from their European tour, archive TV performances, photos, sleeve covers and posters. LW

Jimi Hendrix

★★★★★

The Last 24 Hours

MUSIC VIDEO DISTRIBUTORS

Scant on hard facts perhaps, but this DVD compellingly argues that Hendrix may have been the victim of a politically

motivated assassination due to his involvement with the black power movement. His final hours are deconstructed, right down to his last tuna sandwich, albeit with actors portraying Hendrix, but the actual live performance footage more than makes up for that. JU

Mary J. Blige

★★★★★

An Intimate Evening With...

SANCTUARY



Perhaps the finest soul belter since Gladys Knight, Mary J's debut DVD is only slightly marred by spots from Sting and Elton John. For much of this set, recorded live at the Los Angeles House Of The Blues, she mines a timeless seam of heart melting, virtuoso jazz soul, her subtle but strong voice a constant delight. SC

Norah Jones

★★★★★

The Handsome Band Live 2004

BLUE NOTE



The smoky-voiced one covers a lot of territory here at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tennessee, delivering material by Townes Van Zandt, Duke Ellington, John Prine, The Band, Gram Parsons, Tom Waits and others, with the help of such guests as Gillian Welch and David Rawlings, Richard Julian and an ultra-exuberant Dolly Parton. FD

urines. Throughout the DVD, excitement at having a whole channel to play with is palpable. And while the Chris Morris-style continuity announcer grates, the interview with Ed O'Brien, in which the guitarist answers every question by honking like a seal, more than compensates.

Peter Paphides

2004 CD release of this same show. This time it's the picture that's fuzzy, but the whole thing works better with visuals, even if the cameraman does have an unhealthy interest in shooting the LA audience. But parts (Dylan, Al Green, Lucinda Williams) are so damn wonderful you'd be mad not to buy it. Most magical: Jerry Lee Lewis doing the country blues *Trouble In Mind*,