



Nirvana

gorgeous to watch, especially for guitarists. Classily filmed with at least three high-resolution cameras, the show highlights Ford—flanked here by a traditional blues outfit—as both a singer and a player, but mostly as a player. Fans will be glad to know that there's no shortage of finger close-ups as Ford traverses funk, blues, R&B, and jazz with his customary ease.

SCENE STEALER: Ford is an exquisite lead player in the mold of Albert Collins, but he really excels rhythmically. His thematic variations are fluid and his chord substitutions funky on "Just Like It Is" and "Help the Poor."

SCREEN TEST

DVDs in Review

Nirvana
Classic Album
Series: Nevermind
(Eagle)
 WWWW👉
 Krist Novoselic, Dave Grohl, Butch Vig, and a bunch of peripheral voices lend their insight to the rise of the sad-sack trio from Aberdeen, right up through the release of 1991's *Nevermind*. The storytelling is thorough, patient, and—even though much of the story is well-known—intriguing. Grohl points out that Kurt told him he never cared much for lyrics—that his main focus was melody. This attention to melody is most evident on tracks like "Lithium," "Polly," and "Come as You Are."



SCENE STEALER: The significant analysis of one of *Nevermind*'s forgotten tracks, "Something in the Way"—a somber chestnut for which Cobain used a beat-up and out-of-tune five-string acoustic.

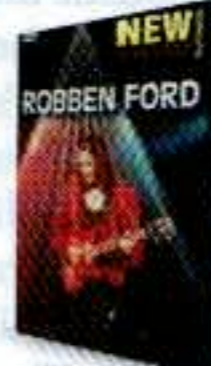
Rush
Chronicles: The DVD Collection
(Island/Mercury)
 WWWW👉
 Progressive? Yes. Skilled? Absolutely. But flashy? Well, not quite. The only thing flashy about Rush is its arrangements. The handful of dull videos on the third disc of this two-CD/DVD package make it clear that these Canucks are about as bland as reruns of "Nova" episodes. The dozen or so



mid-period reels lack clarity and definition, the sound quality lags, and there's nothing here considered rare or unreleased. Even the liner notes are uninspired. The only source of intrigue? Watching Neil Peart's kit grow with each successive video.

SCENE STEALER: We all agree that Alex Lifeson is a massive talent—a fact especially evident on a live clip of the Zeppelinesque "Red Barchetta."

Robben Ford
The Paris Concert
(Inakustik)
 WWWW👉
 Recorded live at the New Morning Club in Paris in 2001, this Robben Ford gig is



The Strat Pack
Live in Concert
(Eagle Rock)
 WWWW👉
 A cavalcade of all-star Strat players dominates this guitar fun-fest—a 2004 concert at Wembley, in England, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Fender Stratocaster. The filming is top-notch, with countless lingering—and drool-worthy—close-ups of sweet-looking axes. And, of course, the sound is fantastic, with David Gilmour, Ronnie Wood, Joe Walsh, Brian May, and Gary Moore all turning way, way up.

SCENE STEALER: Underrated in the States, Hank Marvin proves on the hit "Sleepwalk" that tone is king, and that a little whammy-bar wizardry never hurts. Meanwhile, Albert Lee picks the dickens outta "Country Boy," and Moore burns on "Red House."

—BOB GULLA



EXTRAS

Various
Dig! (Palm Pictures)
 WWWW👉
 This powerful, award-winning rock documentary chronicles the classic Art vs. Commerce debate that all worthy bands must face, following two bands—the Brian Jonestown Massacre and the Dandy Warhols—

on the crazed, violent, drug-filled trip also known as their "careers."

Drive-By Truckers
The Dirty South Tour: Live at the 40 Watt (New West)
 WWWW👉
 Patterson Hood leads this rascally bunch of gangsta-billies through a roots tour de force—a sold-out show down in Athens, Georgia,

full of surly guitar sounds and super-riveting story songs.

Ben Harper and the Blind Boys of Alabama
Live at the Apollo (Virgin)
 WWWW👉
 Guitarist Harper and the

Boys dig into an hour's worth of rhythm-mad gospel tunes from the Boys' Grammy-winning album *There Will Be a Light*, from 2004. Also includes behind-the-scenes, rehearsal, and soundcheck footage.

Iggy Pop
Live San Fran 1981 (Target)
 WWWW👉
 Pop, seen here in mini-skirt and garters and flanked by future Bowie guitarist Carlos Alomar, roars through a grainy set from his lost period. But the wiry one still musters plenty of manic energy on classics like "Lust for Life" and "TV Eye."

—BG



NIEL ZLOZOWER