

OPENING axe



Bob Dylan in *Festival!*

SCREEN TEST

DVDs in Review

Various Artists *Festival!* (Eagle Rock)

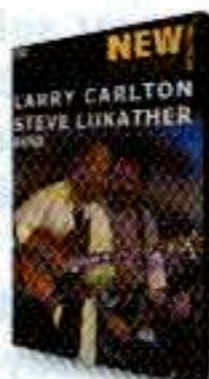
★★★★★
This fascinating documentary, originally released in 1967, covers four early years of folk music at Newport, Rhode Island, the country's premier summer-festival destination throughout the '60s. The Academy Award-nominated *Festival!* captures such seminal artists as Donovan, Johnny Cash, and Pete Seeger, as well as Bob Dylan, in his epic 1965 electric appearance on "Maggie's Farm" with Mike Bloomfield. Though some of the film seems a tad quaint now, it's all sharply shot and should be of keen interest to the open-minded



and historically curious. **SCENE STEALER:** Newport also reintroduced young audiences to old bluesmen like Howlin' Wolf, Mississippi John Hurt, and Son House, all of whom perform live in this film. House's appearance on battered steel guitar—in glorious black and white—is blues personified.

Larry Carlton/ Steve Lukather *The Paris Concert* (Inakustik)

★★★★★
The inspired pairing of longtime friends Luke and Carlton—who perform here in a small club with excellent sound—sure must have been a feast for this Paris au-



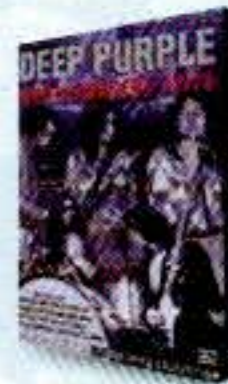
dience. The tones are sumptuous, the sound dazzling, and the playing, well, you have to see it to get it. Luke's slashing rock ruckus contrasts beautifully with Carlton's more sophisticated swing, and players will appreciate that very little pesky singing gets in the way of this fantastic interplay.

SCENE STEALER: On a version of "Red House," the chums exchange blues licks. Luke's are grisly, Carlton's sweet—these are indeed two players who arrive at "tasty" from opposite sides of the spectrum.

Deep Purple *Live in Concert 72/73* (Eagle Rock)

★★★★★
Filmed just prior to the release of

the album *Machine Head*, this valuable concert document shows how Deep Purple—in the only full-length Mark II show committed to film—nailed the rock sound of the time better than any other band. That is, any other band that wasn't Led Zeppelin. The TV-quality footage, half black-and-white and half color, features some crisp multi-camera work and exceptional sound. **SCENE STEALER:** *Live in Concert* reveals a band that had talent at every post, most notably in Ritchie Blackmore's meat-and-potatoes riffs and leads. See how the guitarist rolled long before "Smoke on the Water" became a rock cliché.



Audioslave *Live in Cuba* (Epic)

★★★★★
Participating in a cultural exchange with Cuba, Audioslave became the first U.S. rock band to play there since 1979. Frankly, the band doesn't sound that sharp, and Chris Cornell's voice, once glorious, is ragged and strained. But the overall spectacle, beautifully filmed in front of 60,000 crazy rock fans, should go a long way toward satisfying fans.

SCENE STEALER: Tom Morello is a gifted riffer and an inventive lead player, but only half of his post-Zep riffs actually hit their mark. One that does is the throttling wah-wah stomp of Rage's old "Bulls on Parade"—which goes over quite well here as an instrumental. —BOB GULLA



EXTRAS

Various Artists *Punk: Attitude* (Capital Entertainment)

★★★★★
Don Letts's authoritative history of punk begins at the beginning and careens through two discs' and three hours' worth of safety pins, mohawks, and naked truth. All of which should

provide ample motivation to throw on that old Circle Jerks album you've been neglecting since 1979.

Keith Urban *Live! Right Now* (Capitol)

★★★★★
Australian roots rocker Keith Urban is more than just a pretty face.

He's also a surprisingly wicked Telecaster picker, as this full-length DVD—filmed in sumptuous hi-def—attests: See "Jeans On" and "Homespun Love."

Umphey's McGee *Wrapped Around Chicago* (Sci Fidelity)

★★★★★
Dapper, jam-happy dudes from Chicago fuse aggressive psyche, jazz-rock, and prog tones—and in the process show great promise—on these two discs of tight instrumental magnetism.

In Flames *In Live We Trust* (Nuclear Blast)

★★★★★
Two tons—OK, three hours—of searing Swedish metal, including one disc of scorching live footage and another of backstage peeks, music videos, and soundcheck workouts.

—BG

