

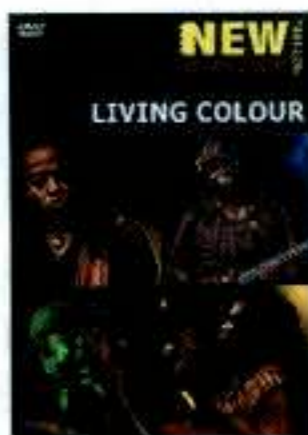
ing to the countryside, Leonora meets her brother Don Carlo (determined to avenge their father's death) before she retires to a monastery as a hermit. Meanwhile, Alvaro goes to war, where he and Don Carlo, under false identities, form an alliance forged through the hazards of battle. The soldiers eventually wind up at the monastery, where the two lovers are united...briefly before the tragic ending. Filmed live at the Teatro Comunale in Florence, Italy in 2007, *La Forza Del Destino* is performed by the Orchestra e Coro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, nimbly conducted by Zubin Mehta, and features a strong cast that includes Violeta Urmana as Leonora, Marcello Giordani as Alvaro, and Carlo Guelfi as Don Carlo. Although the setting has been updated to the 19th century, this version—directed by Nicolas Joël—is still a very traditional production, presented here with Dolby Digital 5.1, DTS, and LPCM stereo options. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (J. Reed)



Living Colour: New Morning—The Paris Concert ★★★

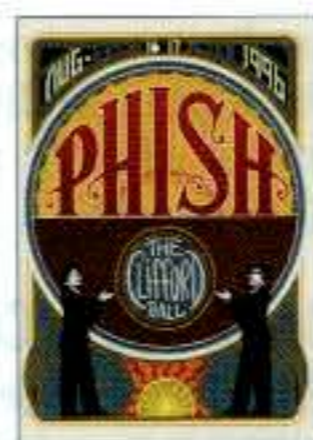
(2007) 107 min. DVD: \$19.95. Music Video Distributors (avail. from most distributors).

Paris' New Morning venue tends to showcase jazz acts, but the club made an exception in 2007 for Living Colour, perhaps because members of this hard-rock quartet (notably guitarist Vernon Reid) have ties to New York's jazz community. While there's nothing overtly jazzy about their 17-song set, several songs feature lengthy instrumental passages. Forceful frontman Corey Glover, son of actor Danny Glover, handles most of the vocals (in "Funny Vibe," he sings "No, I'm not gonna hurt you/so why you wanna give me that funny vibe?"), while bassist Doug Wimbish (Grandmaster Flash, Tackhead) adds a vocal line to "Go Away," and Reid takes the lead on Junior Murvin's "Police and Thieves," a song famously covered by the Clash, which here forms a medley with "Type." Other well chosen covers include the Talking Heads' "Memories Can't Wait," the Temptations' "Papa Was a Rolling Stone" and Jimi Hendrix's "Crosstown Traffic." To the band's credit, the transitions between their originals and these classic tracks are perfectly smooth. Drummer Will Calhoun, who delivers a long solo towards the end of the set, rounds out the lineup for a band that effectively integrates blues, funk, metal, and progressive-rock flourishes in this near-two-hour concert, presented in DTS, Dolby Digital 5.1, and stereo. Recommended. Aud: P. (K. Fennessy)



Phish: The Clifford Ball

★★★
(1996) 7 discs. 540 min. DVD: \$99.99. Rhino Entertainment (avail. from most distributors).



Commemorating the band's first festival in 1996, *Phish: The Clifford Ball* is nothing short of epic: the Vermont quartet played three sets apiece on August 16 and 17 in Plattsburgh, NY, captured here on six discs, plus a bonus disc with extras. Released to coincide with the band's highly publicized 2009 reunion tour, the boxed set features 54 tracks, counting two encores, a reprise ("Tweezer"), a hit song ("Down with Disease"), and a smattering of covers (among them, David Bowie's "Life on Mars," the Beatles' "A Day in the Life," and the Edgar Winter Group's "Frankenstein"). Even fans who weren't there will know what to expect here: mid-tempo rock with jazz, funk, prog, and country touches, distinguished by improv-oriented jams and the occasional *a cappella* or acoustic passage. As the *All Music Guide* puts it, Phish personifies "neo-hippieville's most proficient and clever players," and those players are in fine form throughout this marathon: singer/guitarist Trey Anastasio, bassist Mike Gordon, keyboard player Page McConnell, and drummer Jon Fishman (clad in a donut-patterned muumuu). *The Clifford Ball* is all about the rambling music, with a minimum of stage patter or visual interest (beyond a fog machine, first-night fireworks, and a cameo from Ben & Jerry), but Phish Heads won't mind. Presented in Dolby Digital 5.1 and PCM stereo, DVD extras include a featurette on the fest (which attracted a crowd of 70,000), interviews, a flatbed jam, a sound check, a 53-page booklet, and a set of postcards. Incidentally, the real-life Clifford Ball was an aviation pioneer; the festival itself was held on a de-commissioned Air Force base. Recommended. Aud: P. (K. Fennessy)

Public Enemy: Revolverlution Tour 2003

★★★
(2003) 2 discs. 254 min. DVD: \$19.95. Music Video Distributors (avail. from most distributors).



During the 1980s and '90s, Public Enemy reigned as one of the nation's top hip-hop acts. As producer Pascale Mayer points out in the DVD liner notes, "the *New York Times* even ranked [1988's] *It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back* on its list of 25 albums of the last century that shaped music." By the 2000s, however, the group no longer seemed to be a musical force, what with Chuck D (born Carlton Ridenhour) hosting a show on the Air America network and Flavor Flav (William Drayton) starring in several seasons of VH1's entertainingly tacky dating series *Flavor of Love*. The two-disc *Re-*

volverlution Tour catches the re-formed outfit live at Melbourne's Metro in 2003 in a lineup featuring rappers Chuck and Professor Griff (Richard Griffin), DJ Lord, a crackerjack funk-metal band, and their own private security force, the SIWs (two stern-faced dancer/bodyguards dressed in paramilitary gear). Sporting a Viking helmet and trademark oversized clock necklace, hype man Flav hits the stage in time for the second selection, the iconic "Welcome to the Terrordome." Much of the rest of the raucous, fast-paced 23-song set concentrates on PE's first four albums, generally confirming that their latest configuration can still "bring the noise," although some tracks come off better than others ("Black Steel in the Hour of Chaos" seems particularly sluggish). In addition, there's a DJ freestyle, a Flavor medley, and a too-long set from rap duo 7th Octave that would've worked better as an extra feature. Presented in Dolby Digital 5.1 and stereo, the first disc features the concert and behind-the-scenes footage, while the second includes an Australian tour diary and slideshow. Recommended, overall. Aud: P. (K. Fennessy)