

In Our Systems

This Month in DVDs, Video, and Books



Dokken Unchain the Night

(Rhino)

Despite his arrogance and despite the lack of chemistry he had with formerly skunk-haired guitar genius George Lynch, headband-wearing bandleader Don Dokken still managed to put out music of immense interest to guitarists. Yeah, Don's vocals stole precious soloing time from Lynch, but Lynch got enough licks in to turn himself into a shred-savvy, muscle-bound hero. *Unchain the Night*, made on Super 8 back before digital, is a 45-minute rockumentary from 1986, around the band's commercial peak. The film mixes interview segments with staged videos, making it campy as hell (check out Lynch's guitar "chains" on their 1982's "Breaking the Chains"), but still pretty entertaining. A handful of bonus vids, including big budget reels like "Walk Away" and "Dream Warriors," (starring Freddy Krueger!) fill out the package, which is a companion piece to a rare, early live CD from 1981.



Albert Collins & the Icebreakers In Concert

(Inakustik)

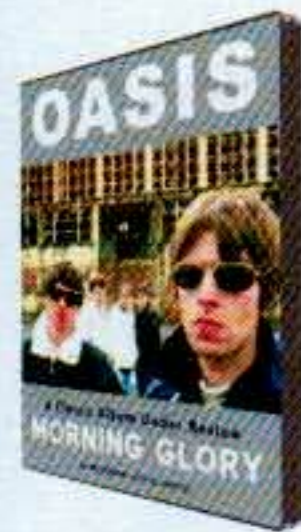
Albert Collins has never received the credit he deserves; you'll agree after checking out this rippin' set from Stuttgart in 1985. The Iceman (at the time 53 and at his peak) is lithe enough to whip off incredible funk licks and wise enough to stick with the spare, searing solos that gave him his "icy" reputation. Thanks to a high-on-the-neck capo and frequent minor tunings, Collins cranks out the R&B/blues madness, and sends them blistering into the smoke-filled German air. Props to Collins' band, too, which includes guest harpist Southside Johnny and rhythm guitarist Rob Noll. The video is soft here, not bad for a 20-year-old reel, and the cameras are kind to Collins' grisly axe work, especially on his cover of Guitar Slim's "The Things That I Used to Do."



Helloween The Keeper of the Seven Keys: The Legacy World Tour 2005/2006 Live on Three Continents

(SPV)

The Teutonic heroes of Helloween have always been on the fringes of the American metal scene. Maybe their blend is too heady for domestic headbangers, but they got stuck in the marginal darkness behind bands like Iron Maiden. The fact is the band's theatrical noise is explosively entertaining, and their sound is prototypical power metal, especially on their landmark disc *Keeper of the Seven Keys*. Each member is a monster instrumentalist, and guitarists Michael Weikath and Sascha Gerstner get plenty of time to chug, chill, fill, and trill. Their work is colorful and precise, without as much fire-breathing shred as many of their metal counterparts. The double-disc video is lavish and fun, made in front of faithful legions around the world. I just wonder why the damn thing needs three names.



Oasis Under Review: Morning Glory

(Chrome Dreams/Sexy Intellectual)

Few bands since the alternative explosion of the '90s have made enduring pop-rock melodies like Oasis. Hundreds and thousands have tried, most ending up copies of copies. This in-depth analysis of the band's triumphant second recording effort delves deeply into how the album became the centerpiece of the Brit-pop revolution, how it effectively followed up one of the greatest rock debuts of our generation in *Definitely Maybe*, and how brilliant singer/guitarist Noel Gallagher, despite his personality defects and turd of a brother, has remained one of modern rock's truly iconic songwriters. —BOB GULLA

INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEOS OF THE MONTH

In an effort that redefines the word "painstaking," instructor Danny Gill takes six Joe Satriani tunes apart note by note, then shows you how to put them back together again,

on *Joe Satriani: Classic Songs* (Cherry Lane). It's a double set, with "Big Bad Moon," "Cryin'," and "Flying in a Blue Dream" making up

disc one while "Friends," "Rubina," and "Summer Song" get the same treatment on disc two. No intro, melody, solo, or outro is forgotten, which means this is one long package—nearly four hours. Gill's absorption of all things Satch is almost total; yes, he's rockin' an ESP instead of an Ibanez, but I'd say his shaved head makes up for that.

On *Rockabilly Guitar* (Hal Leonard), session ace Troy Dexter examines the styles of several residents of the Twangers' Hall of Fame, including Scotty Moore, Carl Perkins, Eddie Cochran, and Brian Setzer. All rockabilly essentials are covered,

from shuffle rhythms to pick raking, and Dexter throws in some cool whole-tone licks and extended chord voicings for good measure. Too bad the folks in charge of onscreen captions didn't double-check the spelling of Duane Eddy's name, but that's got nothing to do with the musical examples, which are guaranteed to help you spice up your next hootenanny. —MAC RANDALL



BOOKS

If you're a regular *GI* reader, you're already quite familiar with the excellence of Tom Kolb's Soloing Strategies lessons. So you won't be surprised to hear that when Kolb decided to write a general guide to guitar playing from the ground up, he did a stellar job. *All About Guitar* (Hal Leonard) is the fruit of his labors, and though it's targeted primarily at beginners, you're sure to find helpful tips here no matter what your level. After dealing with basic chords, scales, and hand techniques, the book moves on to signature elements of four specific styles—rock, blues, folk, and country—before tackling five full song transcriptions, including B.B. King's "The Thrill Is Gone" and Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit." The accompanying CD lets you hear how every example should sound. And you gotta love Kolb's sense of humor; the caption under a photo of Pete Townshend preparing to smash a Les Paul reads "Incorrect way to hold the guitar." —MAC RANDALL

