



Eric Clapton

virtuoso from Jersey City? *One of These Nights*, recorded in Germany last year, emphasizes Di Meola's global romanticism and deepening lyricism. The *Montreux* disc, meanwhile, features two performances, seven years apart, from the suavely bespectacled guitarist. Though he shucks a few clams during some of the more complex picking passages, he does a stunning job throughout of crafting a highly textured ambience.

SCENE STEALER: In 1993, Di Meola's confidence had not yet morphed into egotism; thus, the *Montreux* set contains several profound pieces, namely the closer, "Tango Suite."

Various Artists

Burn to Shine (Trixie)



Looking for a Thrill: An Anthology of Inspiration (Thrill Jockey)



Thrill has dozens of interviews with indie-rock luminaries like producer Steve Albini, Mudhoney's Mark Arm, Sonic Youth's Thurston Moore, and Fugazi's Ian Mackaye. Most of these sit-downs focus on—surprise!—the richness of a life spent making music. The other disc, *Burn*, features a hip roster of eight indie artists performing in the chilly living room of a D.C. house that the fire department condemned to burn for training purposes.

SCENE STEALER: On *Burn*, acclaimed guitarists Ted Leo and Bob Mould plow through some impressive electric exercises.

—BOB GULLA

SCREEN TEST

DVDs in Review

Eric Clapton

Sessions for Robert J (Duck/Reprise)



Never has it been more critical for guys like Clapton, Joe Perry, and John Mayer to pay homage to the blues. Why? Because the blues is on life support, man—has been for quite a while. What it needs is the TLC of players who breathe life back into the genre with each passing lick. And on *Sessions*, Clapton does just that. While not a cure-all, this CD/DVD is especially potent because it's so unswervingly faithful to Robert Johnson. E.C.'s affection for the blues king remains one of the great love affairs in rock, an affair Clapton, now five decades into his career, has finally consummated.



SCENE STEALER: Accompanied by Doyle Bramhall II, Clapton shows his mastery of slide on a ripping reading of "Judgment Day," recorded in the same room Johnson used in 1937.

Metallica

Some Kind of Monster (Elektra)



In this uncomfortably penetrating look at metal's ultimate icon, filmmakers Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky take a look deep inside the minds of James Hetfield, Kirk Hammett, and Lars Ulrich. What they see, and what they convey to the viewer, will definitely surprise you, and make even casual metal fans squirm like hypochondriacs in a leper



colony. Which begs the question: Do we need to see a metal version of "Dr. Phil"? Do we need to watch our heroes get thrown under the psychotherapy bus? You be the judge. I for one find it endlessly fascinating.

SCENE STEALER: Watching Ulrich deal with Hetfield's impetuous departure from both therapy and the band shows how far Metallica has strayed from its brothers-in-arms roots.

Al Di Meola

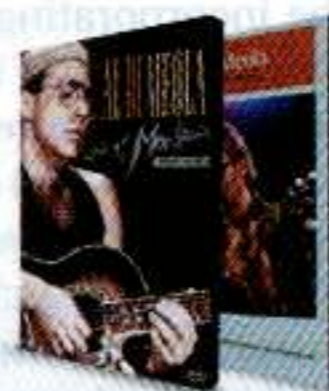
Live at Montreux 1986/1993 (Eagle)



One of These Nights (Inakustik)



Why not spend a couple of magical nights with the mad



EXTRAS

O.A.R.

34th & 8th (Everfine)



As this lucky band's breezy pop-rock gains ever-increasing attention and their confidence soars, a DVD emerges as a companion to a low-profile dou-

ble-disc live set. Recorded at New York's Hammerstein Ballroom.

The Rolling Stones

Rock and Roll Circus (Abkco)



Some cheesy chicanery from swingin' '60s London, with guest appearances by a cavalcade of stars, includ-

ing the Who, Jethro Tull, and John Lennon.

Richard Thompson

Live in Providence (Cooking Vinyl/SpinArt)



As it was for Hendrix and SRV, the guitar is simply an extra appendage for Thompson, who, it seems, is merely a medium through which all kinds of miraculous technique come a-flowing.

Strapping Young Lad

For Those About to Rock (Century Media)



You'd best speed up that pick hand, son, if you're gonna keep up with lads Devin Townsend and Jed Simon, shown on this disc live at the Commodore in Vancouver, Canada. —BG

