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Thursday, Mar. 29, 2012

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# Sound check: Audio-visual energy with a country singer and classic performances from German TV

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The final March Sound Check kicks off with a cool modern country chick's new album. Then we have four concerts filmed for Germany's "Rockpalast" TV series. Last and probably least, we have the second in my series of "Pre-Punk Postscripts."

## 'Coming Out Of The Pain,' Amy Dalley (Rock Ridge Music, HHHH1/2)

This March 27 CD is attractive singer/songwriter Amy Dalley's second full-length album and first Rock Ridge release. She's teamed here with husband/guitarist/co-producer/writing partner Jack Sizemore, who's also a member of Jason Aldean's band. Amy has opted to write or co-write her own songs rather than follow traditional Nashville practice.

The sarcastic, power-poppy opener, "Peace Sign," is great, with a lot of witty lines: "You put the FU in fun" and "one finger short of a peace sign" among them. Other highlight tunes include the chugging title song, the party platter "Saturday Night Situation," the sweetly snotty "I May Love You Now" and the lovely "Somebody Said It Rained."

Fans of The Dixie Chicks (note Amy's vocal resemblance to Natalie Maines) and other modern country females will dig this one.



**GALLERY:** [Sound check Audio-visual energy with a country singer and classic performances from German TV](#)

### **'Live at Rockpalast,' Public Image Ltd. (MVDvisual, HHH)**

These four Feb. 12 DVDs show different sides, both historically and musically, of Germany's "Rockpalast" program.

In this one, John Lydon (Johnny Rotten) shows how he broke with the Sex Pistols' sound almost completely on the first three PiL albums with echoey vocals, complex funky beats/bass and synthesized dub-inspired sound effects.

Selections from those are highlighted on their concert disc filmed Oct. 31, 1983, with only drummer Martin Atkins and Lydon remaining from the band that recorded those albums.

Thus, the highlights played by John, Martin and sidemen include the busy-beating "Solitaire," the Talking Heads-flavored "Annalisa," the noisy "(This is Not a) Love Song" and a fairly furious version of the Sex Pistols' "Anarchy in the U.K."

This isn't my cup of tea, but it's interesting (especially the Lydon interview) and groundbreaking.

'Live at Rockpalast,' Ian Hunter Band featuring Mick Ronson (MVDvisual, HHH 1/2)

This April 19-20, 1980, concert features former Mott the Hoople singer/songwriter Ian Hunter and guitar compadre' Mick Ronson (who passed in 1993) along with sympathetic sidemen. The camera work isn't that wonderful, with audience shots and side-stage shots dominating; but some songs are wonderful in spite of Hunter's often-wordy introductions. He was apparently tired of some Mott songs, but others sound cool.

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