

DVD Round Up

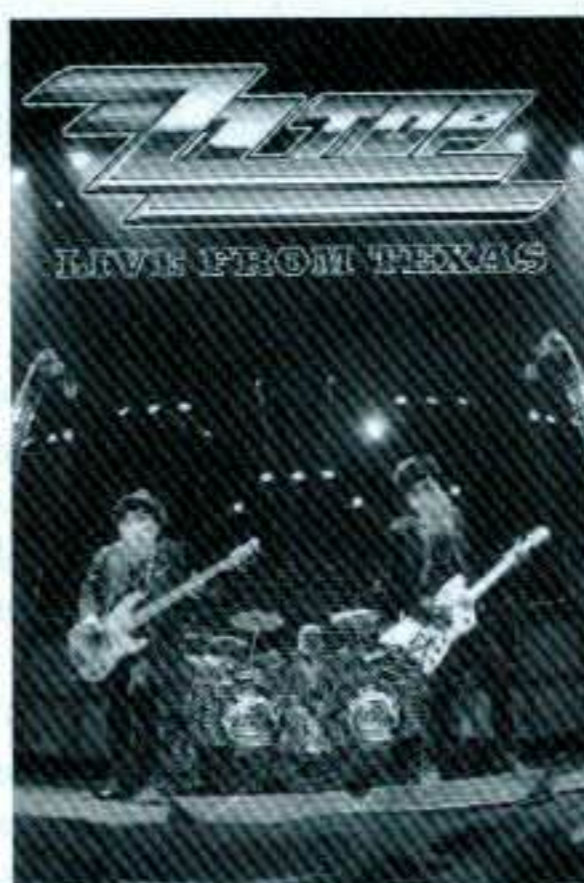
Ted Nugent Sweden Rocks Eagle Vision

There's no denying that this is a robust and energetic display from Nugent. Recorded live at Sweden Rocks in 2006, his trio powers its way through what amounts to a best of his material, plus some tracks from his last studio release *Love Grenade*. Expect no subtlety though, this is roistering heavy rock verging on heavy metal in places with finesse thought to be a minimum requirement. The release is well recorded and presented though, with crystal clear visuals and sound, and includes a CD of the concert too. There are some bonus materials, none of which are essential viewing, although the 2007 performances will appeal to his fans. The rest suffers from what mars the release overall. Who particularly wants to watch Nugent hunting and shooting? His ultra-conservative social and political views tumble out throughout the concert too, and it really does detract from the music. He's entitled to his views, but this frequently becomes rant, and ultimately both corny and sadly juvenile. This one is strictly for his fans. **Bernard Law**

ZZ Top Live From Texas Eagle Vision

Released in June 2008 this is, amazingly, the first time a 'ZZ Top' concert has been on DVD! The long-bearded duo Billy Gibbons (guitar, vocals) and Dusty Hill (bass, vocals), wearing trademark hats, sun-glasses and boots, plus Frank Beard on drums, who doesn't have a long beard, deliver their accessible, stylish blues-based rock from a 39-year-old career. For those, like me, who only came across the band via MTV during their famous Eliminator era, this fills in some gaps. Crowd-pleasers are Cheap Sunglasses, Gimme All Your Lovin', Sharp Dressed Man and Legs, including fluffy guitars but excluding sequencers and keys! Bonus material features them reminiscing in Texan drawl over a poker game, chats with fans and support-personnel, a self-conscious, photo-shoot of the self-deprecating trio, plus ZZ Top's live rendition of Hendrix's Foxy Lady.

Dave Kennedy



Soft Machine Alive In Paris Voiceprint

It is good that the French seemed to take a liking to Soft Machine almost from the start. It means that there is some fine live material lying around, such as this splendid concert recorded for French television in 1970. It features the Mike Ratledge, Robert Wyatt, Hugh Hopper, Elton Dean and Lyn Dobson line up going through their paces at the Theatre de la Musique in Paris in March 1970. There's no great showiness on

display, the band are totally into the music as such and there are no great light shows to admire, but just sheer quality music including Out-Bloody-Rageous, Eamonn Andrews, Facelift, and Esther's Nosejob. The band looks incredibly young too, with a beardless long haired Wyatt hanging over his drum cut like a schoolboy. For its age the recording is really good, the sound is excellent, and the concert is broken into two parts as the television company broadcast the concert split over two dates that year. **Bernard Law**

Oliver Wakeman Band Coming To Town - Live at Katowice Metal Minds Productions

This Polish venue should be pretty familiar to progressive rock fans by now since it has been used for many a DVD production over the past couple of years. In fact for drummer Dave Wagstaffe it was a return as he had recorded a DVD here with his own band Landmarq a year or so earlier. The Metal Minds team do put on a good show too with some great lighting and multi-camera angles even if it does restrict band / audience interaction due to the camera track at the front of the stage. This sets the band a little too far back, but that's a minor quibble.

At the end of the day it is about the music and Oliver grasped the opportunity to not only play much of the *Mother's Ruin* album but other pieces from his work with Clive Nolan.

Looking every bit rock stars Oliver and the band fronted by the superb voice of Paul Manzi pleased a packed

venue. Whether all of those present knew much about Oliver's music or whether they were there to see another find keyboard player with a famous surname we will never know. However, Don't Coming Running got things warmed up and all seemed to go splendidly from thereon.

The Agent was played with some aplomb and was a real highlight before a set that included *Mother's Ruin*, *Wall Of Water* and *Coming To Town* that signed things off. The latter became the title of the DVD as a suggestion from Oliver himself. This is a production that will do Oliver and the band no harm whatsoever. **Alan Egerton**

Clarence Gatémouth Brown Live From Austin Tx New West Records

Brown is the sort of musician that brings in a host of varying styles to his music that creates something quite different. Basically a Blues man, he imbues it with lashings of Cajun music, funk, honky-tonk, R&B, and lots of jazz. This is a recording of a concert he performed for the Austin City Limits television show in February 1996 and it is a really good showcase for his talents. It has top notch sound and visuals because of that broadcast quality and he and his band certainly look like they're enjoying themselves. Brown is the



start though, whether playing a dextrous guitar solo or teasing out some Americana from his fiddle. **Richard Seymour**

Albert Collins Live From Austin Tx New West Records

Another release from the Austin City Limits television programme this time finds Collins and his excellent band powering out the blues in a concert from October 1991. Collins is nothing if not an entertainer, and there is a great deal of that showiness to his performance. The band backs him with a big full sound, with the additional brass section broadening the palette. But the brush strokes are big and lush, with Collins' great guitar playing showing what a showman he is. The release has great sound and visuals, although it does look like a 1990's TV set it must be said. Fine stuff!

Richard Seymour

Roy Buchanan Live From Austin Tx New West Records

This shortish concert of Buchanan in November 1976 shows just what an exceptional talent he was. Half an hour of excellent music featuring incendiary playing, one handed improvising ñ what ever! Another televised concert, this time low key as Buchanan seems quite introspective, concentrating pretty much on his guitar, and letting the audience take care of themselves. They lap it up of course, and there is a great deal to enjoy. Even though Buchanan's vocals are pretty much almost spoken that just seems to add something to the performance. This is the performance of a man in his prime and shows why he is justifiably one of the blues guitar greatest. Excellent!

Richard Seymour

Go Ride The Music/West Pole (San Francisco Psychedelia) Eagle Rock

For some, these two rare TV-shows will be a 'trip' back to 1969, in every sense of the word! For me, it was like a Tardis-visit to San Francisco, when electric-guitar effects, experimentation and creativity, blossomed across a young adult rock-scene. In *Go Ride The Music*, a highlight is seeing Jefferson Airplane play the riff-laden *We Should Be Together* with their talented lead-singer, the gorgeous Grace Slick of *White Rabbit* fame, looking stylish in mauve cape! In *West Pole*, first aired in '69, Ralph Gleason informatively sets the scene before introducing, with film and live footage, what were then fairly new bands; e.g. Quicksilver Messenger Service, Ace Of Cups, Steve Miller and Grateful Dead. 'Frisco rock-fans explain the music they 'dig' and we see bands' experimental films, at times so raw and 'acidic', I sought the optical equivalent of Rennie for my kaleidoscoping eyes!

Dave Kennedy

The Tomorrow Show with Tom Snyder John, Paul, Tom & Ringo Shout! Factory DVD

No this is not a band called *The Tomorrow Show* and neither is the DVD of lost footage of three of the famous four with some interloper. It is however a 2-CD set, the first of which contains the final TV interview with John Lennon five years before he was murdered in 1980. It is as amusing as it is interesting and recorded at a time when he was having immigration problems while seeking permanent residency in the U.S.

The day after his murder *The Tomorrow Show* re-aired that last interview in tribute to him. The package also includes a 1981 interview with Ringo Starr that includes remembrances of Lennon and a 1979 interview with Paul and Linda McCartney, Denny Laine and Laurence Juber form a stage in