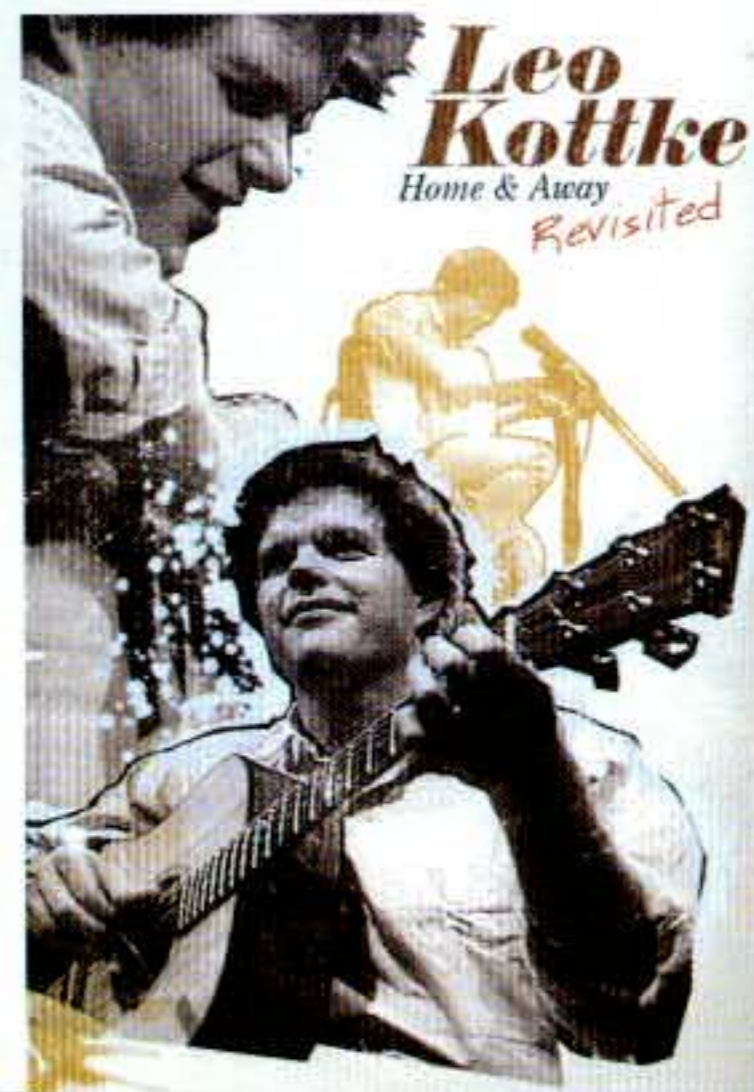


## Tapes N Tapes

We like to get all self-congratulatory and breathy over here in the *FADER* punchbowl when we talk about the "scope" of music we cover, yet we are consistently and resoundingly trumped every month when the package from *Music Video Distributors* arrives via post. Sure, the name "Music Video Distributors" has all the panache of Acme Underpants, but what the company lacks in floss, they more than cover in taste. We're talking exclusive DVD releases that range from Leo Kottke docs to reggae showdowns with Beenie and Bounty Killer to Go West's *Kings Of Wishful Thinking Live* to Trick Daddy's *Thug Holiday Uncut*. MVD charts an eye-popping 20 million in sales every year, probably because they can sell at least one DVD to *everyone on the planet*. Veep of MVD Ed Seaman explains that though his personal tastes run from Sonic Youth to the Buzzcocks, the company throws its weight behind each one of their releases. "With the Andrew WK DVD [*Who Knows?*], we had some meetings with Andrew and his manager about what they wanted to do—and then a massive quantity of videotapes arrived in my office and I was like, 'Oh shit!' But I got people chronicling the material—I don't know if we've ever worked as closely with an artist as we did with him."

ALEX WAGNER

[www.musicvideodistributors.com](http://www.musicvideodistributors.com)



# 5

## World's Finest

In his award-snagging novel *The Amazing Adventures Of Kavalier & Clay*, Michael Chabon's title characters were the WWII-era creators behind *the Escapist*: a square-jawed, Hitler-fighting, Batman meets Houdini meets the Punisher kind of ultimate comic book superhero. BAM! You'd think an actual comic book spinoff would be an instant success, but previous attempts at bringing the literary *Escapist* to the four-color word bubble world were thwarted by low sales. OOF! Fortunately for all of us, Dark Horse is bringing the character back in a six-series spinoff this summer by Brian K Vaughn, Philip Bond and Eduardo Barreto that, much like Chabon's wonderfully meta novel, weaves the story of a fictional comic creator into the narrative. The book is listed at one dollar on the Dark Horse website and I'm buying ten of them. SHAZAM!

CHRISTOPHER RICHTER

[www.darkhorse.com](http://www.darkhorse.com)

# 6

## Body Mover

I was all set to hate on Konami's *Dance Dance Revolution* offshoot *Beatmania* for the simple fact that, by requiring all sorts of multi-limb kinetic coordination to use its massive controller, it requires that I actually exercise. Which defeats the entire purpose of video gaming! Dudes around the world cop PS Deuces simply to hit the futon, burn one and maybe save a planet in the process of muscle-atrophying light-touch joystick clickery—games are s'posed to enhance my sedentary lifestyle, not deliver me from it! But for all its failings as a Lay-Z-Boy aid, *Beatmania*'s multi-level, fake "DJing" puzzle play warrants adjectives like "engrossing" and "addictive." Plus you look far less herbish playing this than *Guitar Hero*.

TOM HONDA

[www.musicineverydirection.com](http://www.musicineverydirection.com)

