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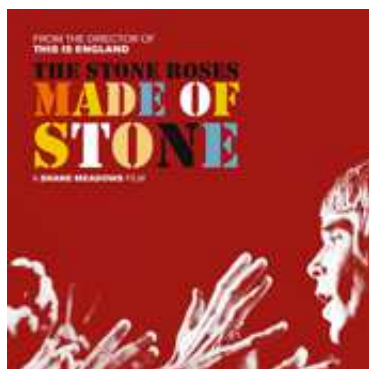
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## Video Fix #6: Video Picks for Everyone on Your List

Dec 11, 2013 Posted By *Shrum* In *Columns* Tagged *Jim Kaz*, *Video Fix* Comments 0

Chances are, you've got someone on your list that likes movies, TV and other audiovisual fare. Here, you'll find a few interesting ideas in the form of juicy rock docs, lustful box sets and other hi-def goodies, plus a couple surprises.



### Stone Roses

#### *Made of Stone*

While they never made much of a dent in these parts, Manchester England's beloved Stone Roses are something of legend across the way. After a limited theatrical run, this new Blu-ray release has been eagerly anticipated by music fans of all stripes—as few bands in the history of contemporary rock 'n' roll have experienced the rapid rollercoaster ride that the Stone Roses have. And, it's one helluva



rollercoaster ride that the Stone Roses have. And, it's one helluva story.

The band's mix of vintage '60s guitar-pop sounds with acid-flavored dance beats was new and novel during the late '80s, culminating in the hedonistic "Madchester" scene that also spawned other key players like Happy Mondays and The Charlatans. The Roses' eponymous debut (1989) was a massive statement of intent, with every song a burner in its own unique way, especially the tripped-out "Fools Gold," the anthemic pop of "She Bangs the Drums" and the epic ballad, "Waterfall."

The album was so impactful in the UK that it spawned hordes of copycats that aped its blaring wah-wah guitars, swirling bass lines and hip-hop beats, not to mention the detached, but infectious vocal melodies. Many of those influenced by the band would eventually become major players in the soon to be rampant Brit Pop movement a few years later. Besides the fans, many journalists were of the opinion that the Stone Roses could eventually become one of the great bands of our time. The band had that rare chemistry that both thrilled fans and intrigued passive bystanders, and were obviously poised for big things.

Unfortunately, label problems and lawsuits would prevent The Stone Roses from releasing anything for five years. At that point, the band had lost a lot of ground to the musicians it had influenced, and released the so-so *Second Coming* to mixed reviews. Soon after, it broke up, leaving fans and critics to wonder what might've been.



*Made of Stone* follows The Stone Roses from their 1983 origins to their triumphant reunion tour in 2012. Directed by long-time fan Shane Meadows, whose credits include the excellent skinhead opus *This Is England*, the film is a must-have for fans. Live sets are interspersed with interviews and vignettes, and there are several bits about the band's early days that should be a big bonus for those wanting to know more. Meadows' warm treatment of the subject matter is extra apparent in these areas, where the band's odyssey from amped young outcasts to megastars, pariahs, and ultimately redeemers, is a blockbuster in its own right. (MVD)



### Batman *Ultimate Collector's Edition*

Director Christopher Nolan's take on the *Batman* series, was novel for many reasons. But most compelling was the approach that placed the masked crusader in a gritty, realistic film noir atmosphere. While the approach had been touched on in earlier renditions, no one quite captured the angsty, badass side of Bruce Wayne and his masked alter ego like this trio of films has. And the departed Heath Ledger's twisted take on The Joker is now looked upon as iconic.

This *Ultimate Collector's Edition*, features all three films in stunning hi-def, with a book and a slew of extras. And it's at the top of my list (hint, hint). (Warner Home Video)



### US Festival 1983: Days 1-3

Sponsored by Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, the US Festival was the '80s answer to Woodstock. Truly a multi-genre affair, the SoCal



the 60s answer to Woodstock. Truly a multi-genre affair, the 30cat festival spanned several days and boasted performances by the likes of Van Halen, David Bowie and The Clash.

Oddly, there's never been a comprehensive video release of the event, which is why this one is notable. Although, far from comprehensive, and lacking in some of the meatier acts, this new DVD features performances and snippets from a few key players like The Clash (which would be their final performances with Mick Jones), U2, Judas Priest, Scorpions, Berlin and others, along with some commentary by Wozniak and MTV VJ Mark Goodman. The resolution and sound quality are so-so in spots, and the lack of full performances is also an issue. But, as more than 670,000 attended these shows, it's great to at least have something, and this new release makes for a decent sampling. (MVD)



### Portlandia Season 3

*Portlandia* is a sketch comedy with former *SNL* comedian Fred Armisen and musician Carrie Brownstein (Sleater-Kinney) spoofing the politically correct culture that is apparently rampant in Portland. And it's hilarious. The third season finds this screwy duo crusading for Portland as missionaries and visiting a hippie-chic restaurant that features a dedicated section for those in need of passing gas. (MVD)



### Weeds Complete Collection

It's hard to not to like Nancy Botwin (played to the hilt by Mary-Louise Parker). She's dishy with a dry sense of humor, a loving mother, and a steadfast entrepreneur since the death of her husband. But, Nancy's also a pot dealer with a habit for connecting with the lowest of low—and endangering the lives of everyone around her.

With a set-up like that, *Weeds* is a must-see, every episode pulling you into another absurd situation. This sweet Blu-ray set comes packaged in a green translucent box, as odd as the story lines themselves. (Lionsgate)



### Doctor Who Series 1-7 Gift Set

*Doctor Who* has been a part of English culture for decades. And just like the Ramones, when it's time for one Doc to exit, there's a new one standing by to take his place. In rebranding the series a few years back, the creators struck gold with actor David Tennant