

FilmFest DC, this film is a foot-tapping introduction to tap dance that will be enjoyed by general audiences as well as dance aficionados; very highly recommended.—Tom Budlong, Atlanta

The Jam: About the Young Ideas. 2 discs. color. 2+ hrs. Bob Smeaton, Eagle Rock Entertainment, www.eagle-rock.com. 2016. DVD UPC 801213074198. \$19.98; Blu-ray UPC 801213352791. \$24.98. MUSIC

This film chronicles the history of mod-revival punk legends the Jam, from their roots in the 1970s London underground rock scene through a string of massive British hit singles and critically acclaimed albums up to their surprising 1982 split. The story is told primarily through new interviews with former band members Rick Buckler, Bruce Foxton, and Paul Weller, complemented by a generous selection of archival photos and video footage and interview snippets with Jam fans. The video also touches on the trio's post-Jam activities, including chief singer and songwriter Weller's Style Council years and successful solo career, and Foxton and Buckler's work with a Jam tribute band. This otherwise in-depth and insightful work unfortunately whisks past Weller's still mysterious decision to break up the Jam and his long-time estrangement from his former bandmates. A well-recorded, well-shot 1980 live concert film is a must-have bonus. **VERDICT** Punk fans unfamiliar with the Jam's story will find this an informative career overview, while Jam devotees will revel in the musicians' stories and the rare live footage.—Douglas King, Univ. of South Carolina Lib., Columbia

★**Janis: Little Girl Blue.** color. 105+ min. Amy J. Berg, Fisher Klingenstein Ventures, FilmRise, dist. by MVDvisual, 800-888-0486; www.mvdb2b.com. 2016. DVD UPC 760137830498. \$19.95. MUSIC

Janis Joplin (1943–70) grew up in Texas and never quite fit in there. After hitchhiking to San Francisco, she realized she wanted to be a singer. Oscar-nominated Berg's (*Deliver Us from Evil*) documentary uses Joplin's letters to family and friends, along with interviews with bandmates, family, and lovers, to delve into the personality of this legendary performer. Cat Power narrates with an understanding of the struggles Joplin endured throughout her life. Footage from interviews with Joplin and extraordinary live performances give the viewer a better appreciation of the natural talent she possessed. Former managers and documentarians discuss the ways Joplin changed the culture of rock and roll with her bands, her out-front leadership, and her style. Interviews with Pink, Melissa Etheridge, and Bob Weir provide insight into Joplin's lasting effect on

music and society. Extras include her Walk of Fame ceremony and an "Avalon vs. the Fillmore" discussion. **VERDICT** An intimate, excellent examination of a musical and cultural icon. Highly recommended.—Jason L. Steagall, Gateway Technical Coll. Lib., Elkhorn, WI

Sun Ra: A Joyful Noise. color. 60 min. Robert Mugge, Mug-Shot Prods., dist. by MVDvisual, 800-888-0486; www.mvdb2b.com. 2015. DVD UPC 760137750192. \$19.95. MUSIC

If New Orleans's Mardi Gras and Rio's Carnivale had a baby and raised him in ancient Egypt, the result would be the man called Sun Ra (1914–93; born Herman Poole Blount, legal name Le Sony'r Ra). Directed by Mugge (*Black Wax*) in 1980 and shot in Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, DC, this film focuses on the musician and his Arkestra playing jazz with African and Caribbean sounds. The music fills the bulk of the program, but interviews with Sun Ra and various band members are also included. Sun Ra's philosophy on music may seem mainstream ("music is the universal language"), but his philosophy of life and death might make viewers pause and wonder about his sanity. He dresses in garb that is influenced by both outer space and ancient Egypt. **VERDICT** Jazz fans might enjoy this film; an optional purchase for most libraries.—Jason L. Steagall, Gateway Technical Coll. Lib., Elkhorn, WI

The Primary Instinct. color. 73+ min. David Chen, CUT Prod., David Chen Film, dist. by Kino Lorber, www.kinolorber.com. 2016. DVD UPC 738329203399. \$24.95. Closed-captioned. PERFORMING ARTS

Character actor Stephen Tobolowsky has appeared in more than 200 films and television shows, most notably in his memorable role of Ned Ryerson, Bill Murray's comic nemesis in *Groundhog Day* (1993). In this concert film, Tobolowsky appears as himself, alone, in front of a Seattle audience. He believes stories can create a "new way to see ourselves," that "true trumps clever." Calling family "nature's first line of defense," he presents humor-tinged anecdotes of growing up with a doting mother and his old-school family physician father, weaving memories of first love, a chance meeting with pro football legend Vince Lombardi, an early moment spinning tall tales in front of a stunned synagogue congregation, and later days as a struggling actor. His stories, not always exceptional on the surface, sometimes reach the level of eloquent performance art. Extras show Tobolowsky discussing his career and the art of acting. **VERDICT** While the production has all the limitations of a concert film, the modest running time keeps it from overstaying its welcome.—Stephen Rees, formerly with Levittown Lib., PA

TRAILERS

What's coming on DVD/Blu-ray

All the Way. color. 132+ min. Jay Roach, dist. by HBO Home Entertainment. Sept. 2016. Digital HD + DVD UPC 883929548682. \$14.97; Digital HD + Blu-ray UPC 883929548675. \$19.98. Rated: TV-MA. DRAMA
Cranston's Tony-winning turn as LBJ.

Blood Simple. 2 discs. color. 96+ min. Joel & Ethan Coen, dist. by Criterion Collection. Sept. 2016. DVD ISBN 9781681432069. \$29.95; 1-disc Blu-ray ISBN 9781681432052. \$39.95. DRAMA
The birth of the Coen brothers.

Captain America: Civil War. color. 147+ min. Anthony & Joe Russo, dist. by Disney & Marvel. Sept. 2016. DVD UPC 786936850406. \$29.99; Blu-ray UPC 786936850383. \$32.99; 3-D Blu-ray UPC 786936850369. \$39.99. Rated: PG-13. ACTION
The Avengers are at it again.

From Afar. color. 93+ min. In Spanish w/English subtitles. Lorenzo Vigas, dist. by Strand Releasing. Sept. 2016. DVD UPC 712267360727. \$27.99. DRAMA
Middle-aged obsessions.



Ma Ma. color. 111+ min. Julio Medem, dist. by Oscilloscope Pictures. Sept. 2016. DVD UPC 857490005295. \$34.99; Blu-ray UPC 857490005301. \$39.99. Rated: R. DRAMA

A woman at the crossroads.

Night Train to Munich. b/w. 95+ min. Carol Reed, dist. by Criterion Collection. Sept. 2016. Blu-ray ISBN 9781681431987. \$39.95. DRAMA
Spy thriller with Rex Harrison.

Pelé: Birth of a Legend. color. 107+ min. Jeff & Michael Zimbalist, dist. by IFC Films. Sept. 2016. DVD UPC 030306946498. \$24.98. SPORTS
The man who put soccer on the map.

Valley of the Dolls. 2 discs. color. 123+ min. Mark Robson, dist. by Criterion Collection. Sept. 2016. DVD ISBN 9781681432083. \$29.95; 1-disc Blu-ray ISBN 9781681432076. \$39.95. DRAMA
Pop culture via Jacqueline Susann.—Bette-Lee Fox