

ter Lord Melbourne (played to perfection by Rufus Sewell), Victoria (in a star turn by Jenna Coleman) not only learns to take the reins of command but also finds herself making the difficult choice as to whom she will ultimately give her heart. **VERDICT** This sumptuously produced new series delivers all of the compelling characters, fascinating historical detail, expertly designed settings, and delicious drama—both upstairs and down at Windsor Castle—that viewers of period television crave and that fans of *Downton Abbey* miss. [See Trailers, *LJ* 12/16.]—**John Charles, formerly with Scottsdale P.L., AZ**

ARTS & HUMANITIES

All Work All Play. 93+ min. Patrick Creadon, dist. by Kino Lorber, www.kinolorber.com. 2016. DVD UPC 738329209476. \$24.95. Closed-captioned. HOBBIES/TECH

Watching someone play video games may not seem like something people would pay to do, but, surprisingly, this new endeavor, called eSports, is becoming very popular. This documentary follows one organization, Intel Extreme Masters (IEM), as it prepares for its 2015 championship. IEM is a global tour, with teams competing for trophies and prize money. Each team is owned or sponsored, and the players are paid to play video games in front of a live paying audience. The film, which includes interviews with the players and with Michal Blicharz, the man who started IEM, does a fine job of explaining eSports and why it is so in demand and might even convert viewers into caring about the outcome of the tournament. Bonus features include deleted scenes. **VERDICT** With eSports viewership on the rise, this engaging production is a strong purchase for libraries to pair with video game check-outs and academic libraries looking for up-and-coming trends.—**Jason L. Steagall, Gateway Technical Coll. Lib., Elkhorn, WI**

★**All Things Must Pass. color & b/w. 94 min. Colin Hanks, dist. by MVDvisual, www.mvdb2b.com. 2016. DVD UPC 760137872498. \$19.95. Closed-captioned. MUSIC/BUS**

Taking its title from a George Harrison song, actor-turned-director Hanks's first feature-length documentary tells the story of Tower Records, the iconic chain that enjoyed much success from the 1960s through the early 2000s before filing for bankruptcy in 2006 and shuttering its American stores. While music celebrity shoppers such as David Geffen, Elton John, and Bruce Springsteen contribute fond reminiscences of what made Tower so special to pop music fans, the tale is primarily told through candid interviews with founder and former president Russ Solomon and a handful of ex-upper-level employees. These company insiders

make it clear that while the rise of downloading played a role in Tower's demise, much of the blame goes to shoddy management, loose purse strings, and overambitious international expansion. Hanks keeps the film visually interesting by supplementing the interview snippets with archival snapshots and video footage. **VERDICT** Informative and entertaining, a nostalgic journey through American pop culture music fans are sure to relish and a must-see cautionary tale for business-minded viewers.—**Douglas King, Univ. of South Carolina Lib., Columbia**

The 78 Project Movie. color & b/w. 95+ min. Alex Steyermark, dist. by Kino Lorber, www.kinolorber.com. 2016. DVD UPC 738329209506. \$29.95. Closed-captioned. MUSIC

In the depths of the 1930s Depression, folklorist Alan Lomax (1915–2002) traveled the back roads of America, collecting and recording the songs and stories of downtrodden, overlooked Americans. The subject of this film is the “78 Project,” something of a Lomax tribute and re-creation, with researchers, an old Pesto direct-to-disc recorder, and one microphone capturing in a three-minute take a performance using the now obsolete 78 rpm format. Pieces range from Cajun music and gospel to folk, blues, country, even novelty songs. The video explains the original Pesto technology, while it also goes behind the scenes to the vaults of the Smithsonian Institution's recording collection and the Library of Congress Archive of American Folksong. Modern-day performers reflect on what draws them to roots music and what it means in their lives. **VERDICT** Missing here is any explanation of the project's methodology or what was hoped to accomplish by tracking down and preserving the works of these artists. The video only comes alive during the performances. An optional purchase.—**Stephen Rees, formerly with Levittown Lib., PA**

Soundbreaking. 3 discs. color & b/w. 425+ min. Jeff Dupre & Maro Chermayeff, dist. by Athena Learning, www.acornonline.com. 2016. DVD UPC 054961252190. \$49.99; Blu-ray UPC 054961252695. \$49.99. MUSIC

Originally broadcast as a PBS series, *Soundbreaking* charts the evolution of popular music innovation and experimentation and explores technology's impact on how music is created and shared. Each of the eight nearly hourlong episodes tackles some aspect of crafting, recording, or selling popular music, including the role of an in-studio producer, multitrack recording methods, and, in the best segment, the importance of visual imagery in promoting new releases. Past and present music superstars and innova-

tors appear throughout, with everyone from Paul McCartney to David Grohl to Quincy Jones sharing anecdotes and insights. *Soundbreaking* also features an impressive collection of live performance clips and behind-the-scenes studio footage and just enough narration from actor Dermot Mulroney to introduce each episode. Bonus features include an amusing conversation between Elton John and legendary Beatles producer the late George Martin. **VERDICT** By covering many types of popular music genres from the past six decades, this well-produced and thoroughly enjoyable and informative film is sure to appeal to a broad audience of music lovers and music-makers.—**Douglas King, Univ. of South Carolina Lib., Columbia**

★**An Honest Liar: Truth and Deception in the Life of James “the Amazing” Randi. 93 min. Justin Weinstein & Tyler Measom, dist. by Passion River, www.passionriver.com. 2016. DVD UPC 765857244310. \$24.95; Blu-Ray UPC 765857244327. \$31.95. PERFORMING ARTS**

For more than 50 years, magician/illusionist/escape artist the Amazing (James) Randi has worked to expose and discredit the would-be psychics and snake oil salespeople who co-opt the tricks of Randi's beloved trade to swindle and harm their audiences. In addition to entertaining on stage and TV, Randi has used his skills to perpetrate elaborate hoaxes that show that even the smartest people can be fooled; interviewees including Penn & Teller and Bill Nye testify to Randi's mastery. Just when the film seems to be merely an admiring portrait handsomely wrought from the expected interview segments and archival footage, an unpredictable turn of events involving Randi's partner of more than 25 years puts their life together in jeopardy. Bonus features include commentary tracks and a trailer. **VERDICT** Viewers will be enlightened and enthralled by *An Honest Liar*, with its look at the life of the singular Randi and its examination of the complexities and consequences of deception. Highly recommended.—**J. Osicki, Saint John Free P.L., NB**

The Business of Amateurs. 89 min. Bob Demars, dist. by Tugg Edu, tugg.com. 2016. DVD \$12.99; streaming available. Closed-captioned. Rated: TV-14. SPORTS/HEALTH

Director DeMars played football for the University of Southern California and received career-ending injuries in his only start. His very personal film examines several interlocking issues facing college athletics, including the long-term effects of such trauma. There has been an increase in suicides among former college and NFL players brought on by multiple concussions. The