

can do an old time hit or two but also his Billy Sherrill-produced later masterpieces (is there any better song than "He Stopped Loving Her Today?"). Yet this brief concert, and a few songs by (much) lesser artists, is pretty far from essential. Jones sounds great, but I've seen him a lot more riveting than he is here, and the professional performances don't enhance the material at all. Still, you won't be wasting your time watching the Possum.

Jonesy "Ricochet" (Cherry Red) There was a lot of great stuff happening in 1972, but Progedelia was not one of them! Keep it in the vault!

Jon Spencer Blues Explosion "Jukebox Explosion Rockin' Mid-90s Punks!" (In The Red) I spent a good portion of 90s dismissing the JSBX (as they may have never been called, not sure where I pulled that out of, but I certainly just squandered any space I saved with that abbreviation) because of the blackface minstrel aspect to their work that seemed especially offensive because they were so with it and great-sounding. I'm far more forgiving of some paleskinned loser in a blues club trying to sound like an old Black bluesman because he has no vision or creativity than I am of Spencer and Co. That said, this singles comp is far more pleasing than any of his individual albums, as Spencer always seemed really dedicated to the art of the 45 (sometimes including jukebox inserts in the singles). These are certainly absurd, extra trashy, dumb, and on the edge of offensiveness, but overall these just sound pretty damn well like they mean it. Bonus track where they pretend to be Tupac's ghost over a porno-soundtrack funkline is my personal favorite. And parodying Crypt records' Back From the Grave art is a nice, strange touch (that's already ripe nostalgia/parody/whatever?).

Joshua Jug Band (Gulcher) I like my psychedelia like I like my women:; wild, sloppy, and weird. Thusly, this aroused me.

Joy Division Under Review (Sexy Intellectual) Laziest Under Review ever! If you don't know much about Joy Division but your interest was piqued by the dramatic scenes in the movie *24 Hour Party People*, so you want to get the real story - bad news. This DVD licensed clips from *24 Hour Party People* to dramatize scenes. They also pad the brief 70-minute documentary with extensively long clips of everyone they mention. Punk rock preceded Jop Division so here's lotsa Sex Pistols footage. Some of their production nodded towards Phil Spector, so here's a minute of the Ronnettes. The talking heads here are more focused and less absurd than on some of the classic rock titles in this series, but all the same, fans will be underwhelmed and newbies will leave under-informed.

Juicehead "The Devil Made Me Do it" (Misfits) The least Misfits-related record released on the Misfits label, this is pop punk awash in a sea of nasty, but it's still pop punk. Most surprising thing here is a virulently anti-Bush song, because I always assumed Jerry Only and family would be pretty conservative.

Junkie XL "SSX Blur" (Nettwerk) This electronic Dutch treat is some kind of extreme sports video games soundtrack, supposedly, but it is also functional dancing/action/lovmaking music for people who actually go out in the real world.

Jupiter Watts (Two Sheds) Back when it meant something to say music sounded like it belonged on "college radio" (in the pre-Alternative Rock era) a band like this would be superstars on that no-superstars circuit. Smart guitar rock-pop that's out of this world.

Just the Two of Us DVD, That Tender Touch DVD (Wolfe POB 64 New Almeden CA 95042) One reason so many people don't like the phrase "Blaxploitation" is that it implies that black people are being exploited in the movie, when actually the idea was that these films would finally exploit (in a neutral use of that term) the fact that black audiences wanted to see themselves on screen and would pay good money for the it. Thus, as Wolfe Video presents this series of vintage "Dykesploitation" films they are sorta rewriting history. These two low budget flicks (circa the late 60s-early 70s) were not made to serve the lesbian community any more than *Maxim* magazine fantasies of two models kissing is for the sisterhood. That said, since these films were essentially lost (the source prints are beat to hell, which makes the experience of watching more gloriously sleazy and independent) then finders keepers! If they want to recast scummy, low-budget drive-in theater sexploitation flicks with Sapphic-themes as campy vintage entertainment for ladies in *The Life*, good for them. The presentation is great, with new painted covers made to look like sexy dime novels and slick reprints of the original press books (featuring gloriously lurid art) on the inside. It's hard to say which one is better. Both present lesbianism as something "regular" married people do on the side. *Tender Touch* has better melodrama, as a semi-psycho lesbian shows up to crash

the perfect married life of an old flame. But the 60s vibe of *Just the Two of Us*, including period décor, and a tinge of period politics (male oppression is a violent, tangible reality here; note the female director) make it the more appealing of the two.

Katy Mae "The Sweetheart Deal" (Maggadee pob 666 Hoboken NJ 07030) *Mae* be my fave band!

The Ka-Nives!! "Get Duped" (Lance Rock 370 Bruce Avenue Nanaimo BC Canada VOR 3Y1) A Ka-MESS! Trash punk that's trashier and punkier than betting on rodent fights in a squat.

Kapakahi "twisted, bet and confused" (kapakahimusic.com) Catchy Island music-flavored music that avoids the ska-stereotypes of the nineties, while still referencing the catchiest Sublime songs.

Kaspar Hauser "Quixotic/Taxidermy" (Backward Masking) Asskick Hauser!

Dan Kaufman "Force of Light" (Tzadik 200 E. 10th pmb 126 NYC 10003) Am I being "Punk'd"? Is this really what this CD sounds like? This isn't a parody of a pretentious album? Oh...

Robert Earl Keen "Best" (Koch) For nearly two decades Keen has been making some of the best Texas music out there, casting himself as the perfect bar band for a less-than-rowdy honkytonk. This best of gives a good sample of this underappreciated troubadour whose songs tell vivid stories about southern characters and their shenanigans without ever disrespecting or clowning his subjects.

Kelly and David "As The Twilight Auguries" (myspace.com/kellyndavid) Rootsy, but not over-twangy, acoustic but not folksy, and singer-songwritery but not coffeeshousey, this couple is just making some nice American music. These are the best people named Kelly and David in America!

Rob Kendt "I'm not sentimental" (robkendt.com) Like a K.D. Lang with a feminine side Kendt crafts narrative, dramatic lounge/country/theatrical music that makes all the world a stage. Profoundly pleasant.

Kenneth Keith Kallenbach American Icon DVD (MVD) Obviously, the level of humor involved in prank calling someone, not a live broadcast of a national media event, but just a random person, and mentioning Howard Stern's penis, is pretty low. That said I was surprised to find this punishing compilation far from humor-free - included is a standup routine where the jokes and delivery are great. Unfortunately he includes a different performance of the exact same set twice on the DVD. Oh KKK, you slay me!

Amaan Ali Khan & Syaam Ali Khan "Truth" (Koch 740 Broadway NYC 10003) A sarod (a smaller, apparently groovier, sitar) can apparently be utilized when morphing traditional Indian music into smooth electronica. To paraphrase Sammy, Yes I Khan!

The Kill Devil Hills "Heathen Songs" (Bang) I understand why an Australian band is making awesome eerie, American country-music inspired narrative gems (I've got all the Beasts of Bourbon albums). But I can't figure out how they even heard of the pleasant North Carolina beach town they are named after.

The Killers "Leaving Las Vegas" DVD (Pride) You can't really make a documentary (let alone an unauthorized one) on a band that hasn't done much yet. Jabbering Vegas scenesters just sound like scenesters from anywhere, and have about as much to say. More importantly, doing one of these unauthorized things without any of the band's music when you are dealing with a band that can't be considered to have ingrained their music into the collective public consciousness makes for an awkward experience.

Kilion and Mahlon (myspace.com/kilionandmahlon) 26 minutes of a band looking for their house keys...musically.

The Kimballs "Great Face For Radio" (Dowboy, 24 Mill St. #317 Paterson NJ 07501) Great songs for radio...if your station combines '70s AM poppiness with '00s NPR clever wordplay).

King Automatic "I Walk My Murderous Intentions Home" (Voodoo Rhythm) King Automatic make bluesabilly rock-out music that seems to come simultaneously from some evil fantasy version of the 1950s, from a pornographic S&M movie, from the best rock n roll honkytonk you've ever dreamed of, and from Hell. 117

King-Cat Comics by John Porcellino (POB 18888 Denver CO 80218) I think JP has actually gotten more economical with his linework. Pretty soon he'll paint the whole comic with one single Japanese brushstroke.

King Kong "Buncha Beans" (Drag City) This is the best thing this ape has ever done! Outsider music meets the R&B house band at 4:11 am when only six people are left in the club and they are just operating on soul fumes. This is a buncha magical beans!

King Louie and the Loose Diamonds "Memphis Treet" (Empty POB 12301 Portland OR 97121) King Louie is the Bob Dylan of our generation, and I'm actually not joking. Amazingly this is his sweet pop album, and whatever he's trying to prove he definitely proves it. You are stupid if you don't buy this record.

King of Prussia "Save the Scene" (Kindercore) Prussious but not precious, these romantic rock romps are lush and posh and literate but still totally toe-tap pop grounded.

Arrison Kirby "Part 3" (Eldeth, eldeth.com) Genius as pure as Ivory Soap.

KISS LOVES YOU DVD (8th Grade Films/MVD) I expected this documentary to be some kind of amateurish fan love letter to KISS so I was impressed at the outset that this was technically so sharp, either shot on film stock, or shot by someone who knows how to make video look really good. But as the film unfolded it became clear that this isn't some knock off fan release, this is a genuinely outstanding documentary about the triumphs, tragedies and absurdity of fandom. Many years in the making, this film starts out by visiting East Coast KISS conventions and meeting the members of KISS tribute bands. Then the amazing happens. The original KISS regroups, decides to take over the convention business, and seriously cuts into the tribute business. Most fascinating is the tale of Ace Frehley's number one fan, who found himself helping Ace move and lending him money when the then-deposed KISS guitarist was struggling, but finds their relationship dramatically altered after KISS reunites (I won't ruin the surprise ending of that storyline, but suffice to say that Christopher Guest and his *Waiting for Guffman/Best in Show* posse couldn't have come up with anything better). What I like best about this piece is the localism - KISS, despite all the artifice and worldliness, is a group of regular New York dudes, and this documentary is basically about how regular New York dudes relate to them, from the family that dresses in KISS getups to the bizarrely loyal dude in the Gene makeup to regular guy rockers like Dee Snider and Handsome Dick Manitoba (check out the bonus footage for Dick's tale of how the Dictators got kicked off a KISS tour in the 70s). Absolutely outstanding.

Kit "Broken Voyage" (Upset the Rhythm) Fucked up noise music that is also incredibly pleasant happy melody music.

Kitty and the Kowalskis "Chinese Democracy" (Amp 153 Balsam Ave South Hamilton Ontario Canada L8M 3B6) Punky Power pop sounds a lot better in a short skirt than a skinny tie. If you couldn't listen to this classic NYC bowery rock n roll all day then there is something wrong with you.

Kitty and the Manges "Joey's Song" ep (It's Alive 11411 Hewes St. Orange CA 92869) The same Kitty as the Kowalski above (who, though forever youthful, is a NYC institution) teams up with punk veterans the Manges for a Ramones/Elvis/Cyndi Lauper-lovefest. Strangely sublime, and not so strangely, does not sound like Sublime.

Knife the Symphony (Phraty POB 14267 Cincinnati OH 45250) Epic sonic artrock knifeplay that shanked my musical inhibitions.

Kodagain "I Want to Tg-d, Tg'd,...." "1985-92," "Commercial" (Listen Loudest) This band is ten times better than U2! Call them U20!

Anna Kramer and the Lost Cause "The Rustic Contemporary Sounds of..." (International Hits) Big musical chunks of Happy! Ms. Kramer knows how to party. Even when she sings about losers and bad stuff she makes it sound great!

The Krum Bums "As The tide turns" (TKO) I think one might dub this regal Pirate Metal, but I'm a little out of touch with nautical marauder music. But it certainly shivered my timbers.

The K's "Can't Get it Together" (theKsBand.com) I give this all A's!