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July roundup - Documentaries

by Harry Thomas

Bill Monroe: Father of Bluegrass Music

MVD Visual, 90 minutes, not rated, \$19.99

Reissue of 1999 documentary covers the legendary bluegrass musician and his influence on the genre. Features performances by Bill Monroe & the Blue Grass Boys, Lester Flatt, Emmylou Harris, Paul McCartney, the Osborne Brothers, Dolly Parton, Ricky Skaggs, Marty Stuart, and John Hartford. Also features archival footage and rare 1990s performances from Monroe's final years, including "Uncle Pen" and "Muleskinner Blues." No extras listed.

Martin Atkins: 16 Days in China

Invisible Records, 80 minutes, not rated, \$19.95

Atkins (member of PiL, Pigface, Killing Joke, etc.) goes to Beijing to cover the music scene. Talkin' 'bout a revolution, indeed. Includes music videos from the bands he reviewed, slideshow.

Martin Atkins: Tour - Smart

Invisible Records, 80 minutes, not rated, \$19.95

DVD version of Atkins' how-to book on how to mount a successful rock show. Subjects as diverse as Routing, Merchandise, How to be a Better Opening Band and other complex strategies are covered. No extras listed.

Punk's Not Dead

MVD Visual, 97 minutes, not rated, \$16.95

Historical journey of punk rock covers it's emergence in the seventies, to its use as a corporate marketing tool and back to it's reinvention in today's underground scene. Features such bands as The Addicts, Bad Religion, Black Flag, The Damned, The God Awfuls, Good Charlotte, Green Day, Minor Threat, NOFX, The Offspring, Pennywise, The Ramones, Rancid, Social Distortion, Stiff Little Fingers, The Subhumans, Sum 41, UK Subs, The Used, and more. Extras include two hours of artist interviews, deleted footage and behind-the-scenes.

