

'Tour: Smart Part 1,' Martin Atkins (MVDvisual,****)

'16 Days in China,' Martin Atkins (MVDvisual,***)

The first of these early June DVD releases features Martin Atkins (PiL, Pigface, Killing Joke, etc.) discussing his philosophies in this video version of his critically-acclaimed book. Subjects as diverse as routing, merchandise, being a better opening band and other strategies are covered. I wish this had been around when I was a young punk rocker! The DVD goes right into a "chapters" mode, so viewers can watch the segments that interest them first; but those who are starting out touring need to watch all the way through, or BUY THE BOOK, which is the real point of the video.

The second DVD documents Martin's 2006 trip to China, where he recorded the cream of the crop from the Beijing music scene. The program also features exclusive studio footage of upcoming Chinese artists including Snapline, The Subs, and P.K.14. It proves that no matter how repressive a government is, there'll always be young people wanting to express themselves through music, as noted in mid-July's review of Punk's Not Dead. This feature also contains music videos, cultural commentary, and more!

These DVDs are available locally or online at www.mvdb2b.com

Ricky Flake is a former punk rocker, and music fan who lives in Biloxi. Reach him at lobotomy3857@bellsouth.net