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Chic

Live at the Budokan
(Charly)

This show, filmed at Tokyo's Budokan arena in 1996, turned out to be Chic's last performance as bassist, songwriter and overall creative force Bernard Edwards passed away shortly thereafter.

The show opens with "Do That Dance" followed by special guests and Chic protégés Sister Sledge who are brought on to perform "He's the Greatest Dancer" and their smash hit "We Are

Family." Then it's the meat of the Chic catalog: the early hit "Dance, Dance, Dance," "I Want Your Love," "Good Times" and "Le Freak." Former Guns N' Roses guitarist Slash enters midway through "Le Freak" to play a scorching solo; the top-hatted ax-man might seem an odd choice to appear at a Chic show, but he and Chic main man Nile Rodgers worked together many years ago on the *Beverly Hills Cop III* soundtrack.

The show closes with an extended version of "Chic Cheer" and the hopeful "Just One World." As with everything touched by Rodgers and Edwards, *Live at the Budokan* demonstrates how music can be performed note-perfectly but not take itself so seriously that it dampens the fun. This fond look back to the zenith of the disco era also includes, as an extra, a brief spoken tribute from Rodgers to Edwards, a lifelong friend and collaborator.

Grade: A

—Kevin Wierzbicki

Live at the Budokan is currently available.



Tokio Hotel

Tokio Hotel TV: Caught on Camera!
(Cherrytree/Interscope)

Caught on Camera! chronicles Tokio Hotel's very busy and phenomenally successful year. Released as a thank you to their fans, the DVD includes highlights from the band's "Tokio Hotel TV" episodes, in which these four fine German boys do everything from rock climbing to go-cart racing to dancing on stage under fake rain, with screaming fans following their every move. It also includes the boys' commentary as they

review their climb up the charts and their boyish arguments over who came up with an idea first.

There are many advantages to having such an intimate setting. However, one thing stands out the most. Tokio Hotel's frontman and youngest member, Bill Kaulitz, talks a lot and is very self-centered.

Even though the show is in German, have no fear. The producers were considerate enough to include subtitles for those of you who did not bother learning a second language.

Grade: C

—Farnaz Yoshei

Tokio Hotel TV: Caught on Camera! is currently available.

staff pick

Nickel Eye

Jan. 29 @ The Troubadour

Yes, the side project of Strokes bassist Nikolai Fraiture sounds like a watered down version of the Strokes, and yes, you can hold your breath until the next Strokes side project visits the Troubadour. But Nikolai's the underrated one, as well as the one who doesn't croon like John Lennon or date a girl named Binki. To boot, he sings like he avoids eye contact and is backed by British band South. Fun! —China Bialos

inner circle | the art of love | BY LUCIA

Hey Lucia,

Your outlook and "tell it like it is" responses are always so insightful. I am a young 29-year-old "cub." I have always been attracted to women older than myself. They provide an abundance of knowledge, sophistication and assertiveness; all qualities that I find make a woman sexy.

I recently met a woman who is 39, all of the above and then some. We work out together, have a lot in common, laugh and never get tired of each other.

We are not intimate and do not go on dates due to her current situation. She is separated from her husband, not divorced and has a child.

I respect their family situation/relationship, and that's why I'm just going with the flow. I'm enjoying the company for what it is and not pressing any sort of progress at all.

She enjoys my company as much as I do hers; it's a really easy flowing relationship. We do not call each other, but do exchange e-mails on a regular basis and see each other a few times a week.

We are personal with each other in the sense that we are very open and share pretty much everything about ourselves. I left the ball in her court as far as setting the pace goes.

I guess what I'm getting at is I think she is the most wonderful woman I have met in a long time. While the timing is off, deep down inside of me there is hope for something a bit more than a friendship, somewhere down the line.

I've learned from past situations to not set myself up for failure, and that's why I'm trying to be casual

about it. What do you think?

—Hopeful in Houston

Hi Hopeful,

You're on the right track, but instead of trying to be casual, be casual. There is nothing wrong with developing a friendship first and seeing if that leads to more once she is divorced.

Of course, there is always a chance she may get back together with her husband, so you have to be prepared for that possibility.

I know you probably don't want to hear it, but I also suggest that you date other women, if you're not already doing it. This will help with not getting too focused on this woman who is currently not totally available.

Other than that, continue to go with the flow and see where it goes. Good luck!

Dear Lucia,

Allow me to put in a word for my specialty, preventive medicine. While condoning multiple casual liaisons by Guy in a previous column, you missed a chance to educate about the risks of STDs.

There is still a high risk for an unprotected "player" to get or give his gal a most unwanted gift. Don't assume your readers know - push condoms!

Your column is always worthwhile, and your photo sure beats Dr. Ruth's.

—Anthony Saidy, M.D., M.P.H.
Dear Anthony,



Lucia

Thanks for your e-mail. You're right. Silly me just assumed everyone is smart enough to always wear condoms.

Hi Lucia,

I have written to you a couple of times before, and you told me to get a life. I now agree with you.

My dad passed away seven months ago. I lived with him, took care of him and loved him. He was greatest the guy. I was very blessed.

Someone told me it's not good to look for a relationship when you're grieving. How long is a good time to wait?

—Julie

Dear Julie,

I'm glad you finally realized you need to get a life.

How long you grieve is up to you. There's no set amount of time. You will know when you are ready.

In the meantime, cherish the wonderful memories you have of your dad and the fact that you were lucky enough to have such a great guy in your life. Honor his memory by choosing someone who is worthy of you. ☺

Write to Lucia at theartoflove.net.

Read an excerpt from Lucia's *Lessons of Love* at lessonsoflove.net.

Listen to Lucia live every Sunday at 3 p.m. PST on latakradio.com.

Remember: Love inspires, empowers, uplifts and enlightens.

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bit farther for "2 Steps" and "7 Steps" as Guy J lets the dance floor cool down a bit in favor of Tangerine Dream-style soundscaping.

Grade: B

—Kevin Wierzbicki

Esperanza is currently available.

The Model

Physical
(Touch It Movement)

Physical is certainly aptly named as the music The Model makes is geared to getting people moving on the dance floor. The band has two members that are proficient with the Korg MS 20 and the buoyant bounce of that synthesizer paired with crisp, rhythmic drumbeats forms the group's sound.

The band seems to take a little something from many successful synth-poppers of the past. "What Does it Look Like I'm Doing?" is a nod to Duran Duran; "I Won't Be Hanging Out Anymore" finds singer J Buz

channeling the late Michael Hutchence of INXS and "Do You Believe In Angels?" sounds like a mash up of ABC and Erasure.

"Immigrant" grooves to a bit of heavier techno as the band apes early Nine Inch Nails. "N/A" is an extremely catchy tune about a guy who is way too possessive with his girl; the song sounds a bit like something the Fixx might have done, but overall it's the most original and best-performed song on the album.

Grade: B

—Kevin Wierzbicki

Physical is currently available.

Omar Rodriguez-Lopez

Old Money
(Stones Throw)

Mars Volta guitarist Omar Rodriguez-Lopez is undeniably prolific. The self-professed studio rat releases more albums in one year than some artists do in a decade.

His latest solo opus, *Old Money*,

is also his first for Stones Throw and fits the label's idiosyncratic reputation. While *Old Money* is Rodriguez-Lopez's most accessible outing, the instrumental 10-track collection is typically unconventional, formidable and experimentally diverse.

"The Power of Myth" is guitar-heavy hoodoo that mixes knotty progressive rock with flinty hard rock: Zappa meets Satriani. The arcane "How to Bill the Bilderberg Group" is a Middle Eastern and psychedelic tinged treat both sinister and nonsensical.

"Trilateral Commission as Dinner Guests" is a free jazz/prog rock combo that echoes the Tony Williams Lifetime. The nine-minute title track is Rodriguez-Lopez at his best: guitar coils and twists as keyboards skim and slither, while the song relentlessly climbs to a freak out jam that fades out under a flurry of fuzz guitar.

Grade: B

—Doug Simpson

Old Money is currently available.