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Bruce Springsteen

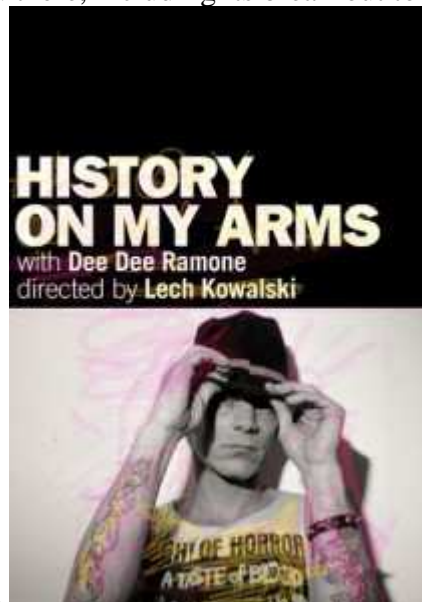
Road Trip - 40 Years of the Boss
Music Video Dist.

This two-disc set brings together a pair of previously released items, *Bruce Springsteen: Becoming the Boss* and *Bruce Springsteen: Under Review 1978-1982*, issued by Britain's Chrome Dreams. So what you get sort of chronicles Springsteen on the road and in the

studio, especially his performances of the '70s through the early '80s when he was building that rep as the greatest rock 'n' roll show on the planet, thank you. But don't expect sheer concert footage delights or the stuff of legend much, and certainly not the mega-hit years and beyond up to today. Interviews with probing music critics assessing his various albums and songs are interesting enough in a PBS/A&E kind of way, but this is hardly a four-star documentary-plus-concert release. In fact, the music snippets are few and short, since this is unauthorized, sanctioned, etc. The first disc, more of a so-so biography, isn't as good as the second disc with the critical talk.

Depeche Mode - The Dark Progression
Music Video Dist.

This Depeche Mode overview isn't the historic document the band deserves (in fact, finding a way to combine various docs for albums helmed by Anton Corbin over the years might be a way to go for a compilation documentary of sorts). But still, this unauthorized look at the band isn't utterly haphazard either. The disc includes interviews with former DM producers/collaborators such as Gareth Jones and Dave Bascombe, as well as comments from fellow '80s travelers like Gary Numan, Thomas Dolby, and OMD's Andy McCluskey, plus music critics/journalists chiming in to look at the band's evolution. There are also interviews with the band from its early years (ah, how young and innocent they look) and concert footage here and there, including its break-out to big-



time *Music for the Masses* era. There's a lot of focus on Martin Gore's songwriting duties after the initial departure of Vince Clarke early in the band's career, plus the now-gone Alan Wilder gets his due, though Dave Gahan's evolution as a sex-symbol frontman doesn't quite get the scrutiny needed. Still, overall, a solid look at DM.

Dee Dee Ramone - History On My Arms
Mvd Visual
DVD/CD

Lech Kowalski's 2003 documentary on the troubled founding bassist of The Ramones (who was the right-wing angry guy in contrast to singer Joey Ramone's innocent leftist child-man) is compelling and even disturbing at times. It's a stark portrait of the musician born Douglas Glenn Colvin who left the band in 1989, recorded rap for a time as Dee Dee King and died in 2002. For The Ramones, he wrote songs that include "Commando" and "Rockaway Beach." Of course, he was the "one-two-three-four" guy for songs' launches. The release also includes a CD of his music. The contrast between the present-day scenes and archival footage is a tale in itself of decline and disturbing drug excess and addiction.

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