

File under: LCD Soundsystem, The Egg, YACHT

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Spector / "Just Hiss" / "Madonna Freak" / "Near the Mark" (Rogue Industries)

Brand-new label with a brand-new act. "Just Hiss" is, I presume, a tribute and plows the same distorted terrain with added funk thrown in. "Madonna Freak" sounds similar but with some nifty edits and sultry vocals. Pick of the bunch for me is "Near the Mark," which sounds like Les Rythmes Digitales put through a bitcrusher. This is a deadly and warped take on nu-funk.

File under: Les Rythmes Digitales, Nu Funk

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Palermo Disko Machine / "Vesuvia" / "Theme Of Palermo Disko Machine"

(Vulture)

If Giorgio Moroder and Philip K. Dick had a love child, this is what it would sound like in the bath. Following on from successful releases on Kitsuné, PDM's latest offering is 21st century dance music at its very best—a patchwork time capsule of Italo-disco and funk conjured up in a contemporary cauldron of cool. "Vesuvia" is a mixture of electro grooves, basement funk, and crisp modern production with glimpses of French-style synths. The "Theme of Palermo Disko Machine" is more of the same, but with more driving with a healthy dose of Bernard Edwards bass-style action. Classy stuff.

File under: Soulwax, Justice, Sharem Jay

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The Golden Filter / "Thunderbird" (Dummy)

"Thunderbird" is a sprawling, hedonistic, and sultry slice of disco that begins as a chunky DFA-esque stomp before breathy

vocals and shimmering synths ride in—there's a euphoric dub, too, which is my fave. A kaleidoscopic groove, crunching electronica, and stifling white noise make for a mesmerizing, cosmic *chuggernaut*. File under: Bush Doctors, LCD Soundsystem, Sasha

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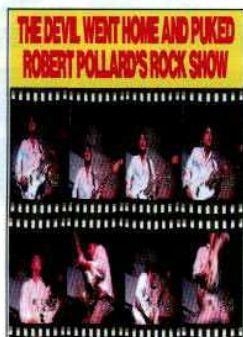
The Brown Acid / "Try Humanity" (News)

Some very weird shit here on the original mixes; there's very loud distorted vocals and quirky acid bits which sounds like they were off their tits in the studio. Meanwhile, wade way past the obligatory dubstep mixes and Zomby's Vitamin E remix is a loved-up "raveathon" complete with old-school bleeps and air horns. This track isn't going change the world, but it has a wicked vibe.

File under: Rico Tubbs, Altern8, Drummatic, Twins

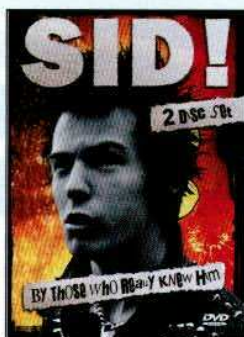
DVDs

Reviews by Darren Ressler



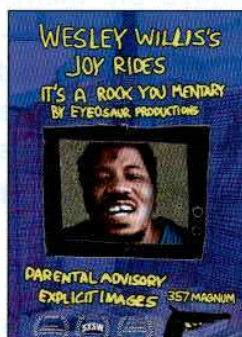
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Robert Pollard / The Devil Went Home and Puked (Rockcity)

Prolific indie-rock darling Robert Pollard is known for his work in Guided By Voices and a slew of solo projects. This DVD is a compilation of various live shows and "rare" footage, much of which should've remained in Pollard's home VHS collection. The sound quality is generally horrible, and the performances must've been cobbled together in iMovie. Though GBV were known for their outrageous and drunken shows, that mindset must've worn off on whoever put this DVD together.



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Sid Vicious / Sid! By Those Who Really Knew Him (Odeon)

Volumes have been written on Sex Pistols bassist Sid Vicious, but few accounts have gone beyond the headlines to describe who this punk-rock icon really was. This UK documentary is a candid look at the man as seen by London's scenesters. Interviews with ex-Pistols bassist Glen Matlock to manager Malcolm McLaren are revealing and poignant. Despite the promise people saw in him, Vicious' life ended prematurely and tragically. In the end, this is a celebration of his short, spectacular life.



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Wesley Willis / Wesley Willis's Joy Rides (MVD Visual)

A schizophrenic born into an unstable family, Wesley Willis turned to outsider art and music as his creative outlet. A hulking manchild with a unique perspective, his artistic talent won him friends and patrons in Chicago's underground art scene. This excellent documentary tells Willis' story and shows how he managed to live out all of his dreams—which included producing a plethora of DIY albums and touring all over the country—until his untimely death in 2003.



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Michael Jackson / Life & Times of the King of Pop 1958-2009 (Rockcity)

It seems that everyone with a video camera is trying to cash in on the death of Michael Jackson. This is yet another shameless and unauthorized DVD that's more like a game of bait-and-switch. There's not much more here than a shoddy video montage played over a cover of "Rock With You" and news reports of the singer's death. Even worse, the only "original" content is the director reporting from outside Jackson's memorial service at the Staples Center. Shame on you, Wilson Ebiye!