

### Bebop nostalgia

Running 42 minutes, Florida's Rock 'n Roll Palace is the venue for **The Platters & The Coasters**, an MDV release (UPC#022891654698, \$13). Excerpts from the sets were included on MVD's **Live at the Rock 'n' Roll Palace Volume 1** and **Volume 2** (Mar 07). The set by the Platters is the longer of the two, but both 2005 efforts offer what is probably a last look at the legendary bebop groups, not quite up to the vocal strengths of their prime, but still a valid echo of their past. The shows aren't overly well recorded, either, letting the backup band overrun the vocals at times. Nevertheless, the nostalgia is sweet and the show is appealing. The full screen picture is reasonably bright and sharp. The sound is centered and not distorted. There is no captioning, and the program is accompanied by a text profile of the group.

### Attic rock

Kind of an infomercial for the Hard Rock Cafe chain and a tie-in with a coffee table book, there is so much material presented on the 86-minute **Hard Rock Treasures** release from MPI Home Video (UPC#030306775098, \$25) that it ends up holding your interest despite your better instincts. There are legitimate performance clips (never full songs, but enough of a clip to get you humming each tune) sprinkled throughout the 2005 program, which is primarily a look at some of the major rock 'n roll memorabilia items collected by the chain for display in its various restaurants, and casual explanations of how a few of the items were acquired. Included as well are lengthy interviews with the musicians contributing their stuff, and it is the eclectic array of bands—Deep Purple, KISS, Styx, Aerosmith and so on, that keeps you wondering what is going to pop up next—an experience similar, one supposes, to wandering around one of the restaurants and looking at the walls.

The picture is presented in letterboxed format only, with an aspect ratio of about 1.78:1 and an accommodation for enhanced 16:9 playback. The color transfer is sharp. The clips have a reasonably strong 5.1-channel Dolby Digital mix. There are optional English subtitles and 37 minutes of additional footage that didn't make it into the documentary.

### Aphrodesia

A harmless British sex farce from 1971 that is as irresistibly amusing as it is undeniably stupid, **She'll Follow You Anywhere**, is available as a *Jezebel* title from Salvation (UPC#014381555424, \$20). Two hapless chemists at a cosmetics corporation who are working on new aftershave formula accidentally create an elixir that sends any woman who sniffs it into a sexual frenzy. They then struggle in vain to make and test more of their potion. Running 96 minutes, the plot veers off on one tangent after another, and never comes close to matching the fantasies it inspires, but there is a basic vaudevillian burlesque to the action that is inherently comical, perhaps not enough to induce a full chuckle, but sufficient to put you on the verge.

The picture is presented in letterboxed format only, slightly windowboxed with an aspect ratio of about 1.75:1 and an accommodation for enhanced 16:9 playback. The color transfer is generally solid and sharp, with bright, fresh hues, although the source material does have a few stray scratches and speckles. The monophonic sound is adequate and there is no captioning. The program is accompanied by a trailer.

### DVD News

**CRITERION DOES IF...:** The Criterion Collection will be releasing Lindsay Anderson's *If...* with a commentary from Malcolm McDowell and other extras, including Anderson's documentary, *Thursday's Children*.

**EXTRA SMOKIN':** Universal's release of *Smokin' Aces* will have two commentaries and an alternate ending.

**THREE DIGITS FOR THE DUKE:** To celebrate John Wayne's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Warner Home Video and Paramount are releasing a number of collector's editions of his films. *Rio Bravo* will be a two-platter release with a commentary from Richard Schickel and John Carpenter. *True Grit* will have a commentary track by western experts. *The Cowboys* will have a commentary track featuring director Mark Rydell.

**NEW FORMAT TRACKER:** The following titles have been released so far in BluRay format (HD-DVD titles were listed last month):

From Buena Vista: *Annapolis*, *The Brothers Grimm*, *Casanova*, *Chicago*, *Chicken Little*, *Dark Water*, *Dinosaur*, *Eight Below*, *Enemy of the State*, *Finding Neverland*, *Flightplan*, *Glory Road*, *Goal! The Dream Begins*, *Gone in 60 Seconds*, *The Great Raid*, *The Haunted Mansion*, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, *Invincible*, *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back*, *Ladder 49*, *Pearl Harbor*, *The Prestige*, *Reign of Fire*, *Sky High*, *The Wild*

From Eagle Rock: *Alice Cooper Live at Montreux*, *The Black Crowes Freak 'N' Roll...Into the Fog*, *The Black Crowes All Join Hands*, *The Fillmore San Francisco*, *Elvis Costello and the Imposters Club Date Live in Memphis*, *Pat Metheny Group The Way Up Live*, *Toto Live in Amsterdam 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

From Fox: *Alien vs. Predator*, *Behind Enemy Lines*, *Broken Arrow*, *Bulletproof Monk*, *Chain Reaction*, *Courage under Fire*, *Devil Wears Prada*, *Entrapment*, *Eragon*, *Fantastic Four*, *Flight of the Phoenix*, *Flyboys*, *Hart's War*, *Hoosiers*, *Ice Age 2 The Meltdown*, *Kingdom of Heaven*, *Director's Cut*, *Kiss of the Dragon*, *The Last Waltz*, *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*, *The Marine*, *Men of Honor*, *The Omen* (remake),

*Phone Booth*, *Planet of the Apes* (remake), *Rising Sun*, *Rocky*, *The Sentinel*, *Speed*, *The Terminator*, *The Transporter*, *Transporter 2*, *The Usual Suspects*, *Windtalkers*, *X-Men Last Stand*

From HBO: *The Sopranos Season Six Part I*

From Koch: *Chronos*

From Lionsgate: *American Psycho Unrated Edition*, *Crank*, *Crash*, *The Descent*, *The Devil's Rejects*, *Dirty Dancing*, *Employee of the Month*, *Lord of War*, *The Punisher*, *Rambo First Blood*, *Reservoir Dogs*, *Saw*, *Saw II*, *Saw III*, *Stargate*, *Stir of Echoes*, *Terminator 2 Judgment Day*, *Total Recall*, *Weeds Season One*, *Young Guns*

From Magnolia: *The Architect*, *Bikini Destination Triple Fantasy*, *Bubble*, *Enron the Smartest Guys in the Room*, *HDNet World Report Special Shuttle Discovery's Historic Mission*, *One Last Thing*, *The World's Fastest Indian*

From Paramount: *Aeon Flux*, *Babel*, *Black Rain*, *Four Brothers*, *The Italian Job* (remake), *Lara Croft Tomb Raider*, *The Manchurian Candidate*, *Mission Impossible Ultimate Missions Collection*, *Mission Impossible III*, *Nacho Libre*, *Reds*, *Sahara*, *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow*, *Sleepy Hollow*, *U2 Rattle and Hum*, *World Trade Center*

From Sony: *All the King's Men*, *Basic Instinct 2*, *The Benchwarmer*, *Big Fish*, *The Big Hit*, *Black Hawk Down*, *Casino Royale*, *Click*, *The Covenant*, *Destiny's Child Live in Atlanta*, *The Fifth Element*, *50 First Dates*, *Gridiron Gang*, *Hitch*, *The Holiday*, *House of Flying Daggers*, *Into the Blue*, *John Legend Live at the House of Blues*, *A Knight's Tale*, *Kung Fu Hustle*, *Layer Cake*, *Little Man*, *Memento*, *Monster House*, *Open Season*, *The Pursuit of Happyness*, *Resident Evil Apocalypse*, *Rocky Balboa*, *Running with Scissors*, *RV*, *S.W.A.T.*, *Silent Hill*, *Species*, *Stealth*, *Stranger Than Fiction*, *The Tailor of Panama*, *Talladega Nights*, *The Ballad of Ricky Bobby*, *Tears of the Sun*, *Ultraviolet*, *Underworld Evolution*, *Vertical Limit*, *Warriors of Heaven and Earth*, *We Were Soldiers*, *XXX*

From Universal: *Nine Inch Nails Beside You in Time*,

From Warner: *The Ant Bully*, *ATL*, *Beerfest*, *Blazing Saddles*, *Bullitt*, *A Christmas Story*, *The Departed*, *Dog Day Afternoon*, *Firewall*, *The Fugitive*, *Full Metal Jacket*, *The Getaway*, *Good Night and Good Luck*, *GoodFellas*, *Happy Feet*, *House of Wax*, *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang*, *Lady in the Water*, *The Lake House*, *The Last Samurai*, *Lethal Weapon*, *Lethal Weapon 2*, *March of the Penguins*, *Million Dollar Baby*, *National Geographic Relentless Enemies*, *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Rumor Has It*, *Scooby-Doo* (movie), *The Searchers*, *16 Blocks*, *Space Cowboys*, *Superman The Movie*, *Superman II The Richard Donner Cut*, *Superman Returns*, *Swordfish*, *Syriana*, *Tim Burton's Corpse Bride*, *Training Day*, *Under Siege*, *Unforgiven*, *The Wicker Man*

From WEA: *Legends of Jazz with Ramsey Lewis*, *Muriel Anderson A Guitarscape Planet*, *Nature's Colors with the World's Greatest Music*, *The New Orleans Concert The Music of America's Soul*, *A View from Space with Heavenly Music*

### DVD and LD Ads

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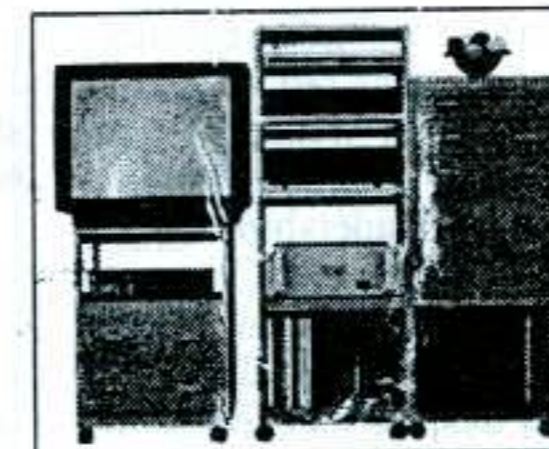
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