

Fort Myers, Fla.

# Music >>

## REISSUE REPORT >>

### DVDs of old rock idols to hit the shelves soon

BY MARK MARYMONT  
Special to The News-Press

Rock 'n' roll fans can usually find a CD best-of by their favorite artists. But it's not so easy to find performance DVDs of those folks, either in their prime in the '50s or '60s or even more up-to-date concerts. But that's beginning to change, so, while we usually focus on albums you can listen to, this week, we'll check out discs you can watch.

■ Various Artists "Rock 'N' Rolls (sic) Greatest Teen Idols" (Quantum Leap) Hyperbole aside, these live performances from the Rock 'n Roll Palace in Orlando feature strong work by Tommy Sands, Joey Dee, Bobby Vee, Tommy Roe, Lenny Welch and others. The real treat is rare clips from "Rock! Rock! Rock!," a 1957 film that starred DJ Alan Freed. There are forgettable songs by Cirno & the Bowties, but check the two by Frankie Lymon & the Teenagers singing their little hearts out in crisp black and white.

■ Johnny Tillotson (Quantum Leap) The '60s teen favorite offers "Dreamy Eyes," "Poetry In Motion" and "It Keeps Right On A Hurtin'." For good measure, you get bonus tracks by the

Dovells, known for "Bristol Stomp" and "You Can't Sit Down."

■ Johnny Mathis "Gold: A 50th Anniversary Celebration" (Columbia/Legacy) Taped in Atlantic City last fall, this has been a staple of PBS programming. Along with the live versions of his biggest hits, you get about a dozen bonus songs and a tour of Mathis' Los Angeles home.

Other worthwhile Legacy projects include "Tony Bennett: An American Classic," the recent hour-long TV special with Bennett and some intriguing guests and great staging and choreography. There are plenty of extras as well. Roy Orbison fans will enjoy "In Dreams," issued late last year in recognition of what would have been his 70th birthday.

■ Shirelles "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow" (Quantum Leap) Filmed at a concert in Orlando, this 60-minute set includes "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow," "Baby It's You" and "Mama Said." Also singing: the Angels ("My Boyfriend's Back," "Til") and the Dixie Cups ("Chapel Of Love," "Iko, Iko"). Like the others in this series the sound is very good and the performers are engaged and vital.

## ALBUM REVIEW >>

### JARVIS COCKER "JARVIS" (★ ★ ★ ½)

As frontman for the long-running British band Pulp, Jarvis Cocker evolved into one of rock's great wits, a droll (but never smug) dissector of sex, class and disillusion. On "Jarvis," his first solo album, Cocker's observational skills are as keen as ever. Ruminating on troubling times on "From A to I" and on the profanity-laced hidden track "Running the World," Cocker puts forth a world view that's bleak but never sour, thanks to his nuanced vocals and smart arrangements. The stellar songs range from the Tommy James-sampling "Black Magic" to the hauntingly pastoral "Baby's Coming Back to Me." Whether Cocker is fearing young hoodlums in "Fat Children" or empathizing with misfits like "Big Julie," "Jarvis" is never less than compelling.

—Michael Pelusi, McClatchy News Service



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