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Blues DVDs: Sue Foley / Bob Brozman / Blues Caravan

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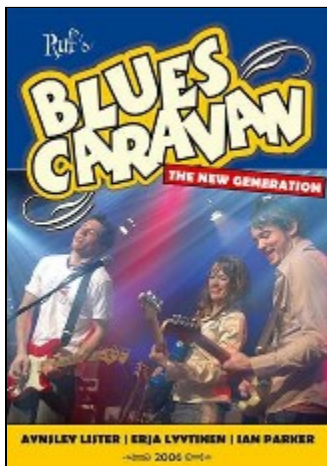
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While it's rooted in a rich African-American tradition, blues can take many forms, as three new discs released by MVD Visual and Inakustik DVD from 2005 German concert series amply showcase.

Sue Foley: Live In Europe shines some deserved attention on one of the leading lights of the contemporary femme blues scene. A workhorse Canadian native, Foley has released 10 albums in just 13 years, and shows no signs of slowing down. Quite the contrary, she seems to only be getting better. Recorded last December at a show at the Underground in Köln, Germany, this concert runs just under an hour-and-a-half, and includes "The Snake," "Queenbee," "Me and My Chauffeur," "Fool Me Good," "Absolution," "Change Your Mind" and the instrumentals "Hooker Thing," "Breakfast" and "Hooked on Love," which, thusly combined, could seemingly tell their own story – one a certain sassy Julia Roberts character could appreciate.

The aforementioned Köln club is the through line with all of these discs, and *Bob Brozman: Live In Germany* finds the bearded, scholarly blues master and in-demand collaborator sweating through 15 tunes, including "Down the Road," "Rattlesnake Blues," "One Steady Roll," "Love in Vain," "Death Comes Creepin'" and "Death Calypso." A veritable one-man jam band, Brozman's skill and this set are testaments to the power and pleasure of music for anyone who pursues their doggedly enough.

Rounding out the collection is *Blues Caravan: The New Generation*, in which blues artists Aynsley Lister, Ian Parke and Erja Lyytinen perform mini-sets or original compositions as well as numbers rooted in the tradition of the American south, all before joining together for a grand finale that includes the title track and the effusive "All the Time." A little backstage film nicely complements the onstage proceedings.

Packaged in clear Amray cases, each individually available disc is presented in 16x9 widescreen format, with Dolby digital 5.1 stereo and DTS 5.1 audio tracks. The club's murky blue hues, all crisply delineated, give some of the numbers an under-the-sea vibe, and the exchanged licks, particularly on the Blues Caravan disc, are nicely captured. Each title includes a photo gallery and bonus interview material as well, making the DVDs pleasant both as valentines of re-acquaintance and introductions to each respective artist. Owing to its shorter set, the Foley disc features a second concert, from Amsterdam, while *Bob Brozman: Live in Germany* even includes a few handy guitar lessons and tips, neat touches for aspirant or even amateur chord-slingers who can't afford proper lessons on their own. B- (Shows) B- (Discs)

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