

but the lasting hummability is near parallel. "Talk Down The Girl," fittingly, is a narcotic bringdown of a track. It's also the point where the album takes a slide towards slower, less charismatic moments. From there, things delicately unravel until the record's end, but it's still more pretty than boring. *The Runaway Found* may signal the coming out party for the next great dark troubadour. www.theveils.com—**AB**

CCC

VELVET REVOLVER *Contraband* (RCA/BMG)

Pilfering from the same stash of fading cock-rock stars, this is still better than Nikki Sixx's Brides Of Destruction debacle. It's nothing less than what one would expect from the amalgamation of most of GN'R and STP's Scott Weiland. Do away with the *Illusion* albums and Axl's domineering keyboards and overwrought wankiness, throw in Weiland's sultry crooning with a Sid Vicious image and voila — '90s rock with more swagger. While some tracks are decidedly either GN'R or STP, VR are pushing towards their own sound that should develop by the next album. Regardless, *Contraband* is all foot-stomping rock stuffed with at least one chant-along per song to sucker listeners in. www.velvetrevolver.com—**KC**

CCC

WAX MANNEQUIN *The Price* (Coqui/Sonic Unyon)

"Rock 'n' roll won't stop believing/So don't stop believing," sings Hamilton's favourite performance art-rocker Wax Mannequin on "R&R WND." This time around, Wax is proclaiming himself The President Of Indie Rock and has put out a collection of songs that are equal parts Tenacious D and Nash The Slash, with a touch of Queen. It sounds like a spoof on the recent mainstream glam rock revival, but Wax Mannequin might just be serious. "Message From The Queen" pays homage to Freddie Mercury, while "Bleed Jimmy" features some kick-ass riffs and squealing synth. You can just bet there will be a lot of fist-pumping going on at the shows. www.waxmannequin.com—**SW**

CCC

WINSTON *Passengers* (Frontside)

Call me crazy, but any press release that contains both the terms "Nickelback" and "avant-garde song construction" is a little off the mark. However, while Vancouver's Winston may be far-reaching in their self-portraiture, it shouldn't dissuade fans of upbeat rock from checking out their debut. Mixing the alternately warbling and crunching guitars of *Bends*-era Radiohead with the populist sensibility of Five For Fighting, Winston craft solid if standard melodic pop-rock. Songwriter Ryan Hauschild's voice pushes his traditional arrangements gently forward. There are even fragile piano-tinged moments that hint at what The Flaming Lips might sound like when they release their adult contemporary record. www.winstonmusic.com—**JM**

CCC

THE ZUTONS *Who Killed The Zutons?* (Deltasonic/Sony)

The same wildly erratic musical adventures that are found on the records of labelmates The Coral are here on *Who Killed The Zutons?* But rest assured, this is no as-Nickelback-are-to-Default parody. The Zutons' express goal is to combine jazz, funk, soul and country, and although they haven't achieved the perfect melting pot, there's still some fine moments on this record. The highlight is "Havana Gang Brawl." It's a surreal tale wrapped in an agonizingly familiar hippie-rock dressing not at all indicative of the rest of the album. But highlighting one moment is pointless, *Who Killed The Zutons?* is entirely too far-reaching an affair to sum up easily.

www.thezutons.co.uk—**ABr**

CCC

Contributors: Mike Armitage (MA), Aaron Brophy (AB), Keith Carman (KC), Elizabeth Chorney-Booth (ECB), Earl Cousins (EC), Lauren Ferranti (LF), Caitlin Hotchkiss (CH), Joanne Huffa (JH), Darrin Keene (DK), Andy Lee (AL), Joel McConvey (JM), The Mouth, Brian Pascual (BP), Jason Richards (JR), Shannon Whibbs (SW)

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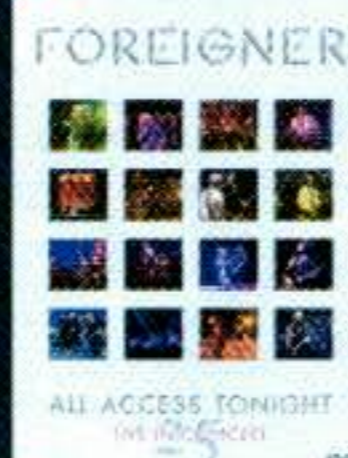
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DVDS



PAUL MCCARTNEY *Music And Animation Collection* (Miramax/Buena Vista)
 With *Music And Animation Collection*, Paul McCartney breaks into the world of animated features. Pro-animal and earth rights messages come out loud and clear in these shorts featuring McCartney's voice and songs, which are highly entertaining. "Tropical Island Hum" features a sing-song among a group of animals who've felt the crueller hand of humanity, but their tribulations are relayed in tongue-in-cheek fashion. "Tuesday" and "Rupert And The Frog Song" focus on frogs merrily floating through night skies or singing the night away. The animation may be more oriented for adults or older kids, but it's spectacular (animator Geoff Dunbar has clearly studied Disney's *Fantasia* to a great degree). In all, the package is of suitably high quality to carry McCartney's name on it.—**DK**

CCCC



FOREIGNER *25 All Access Tonight* (Eagle Vision)
 Foreigner has had massive success over the years with hits like "Hot Blooded" and "I Want to Know What Love Is." As this grainy, home video-quality document of their 25th Anniversary tour attests, that was yesterday. Unfortunately, Lou Gramm's voice — which knocked many a Foreigner tune into the stratosphere — hasn't weathered the storm. Off-time and lacking the old passion, Gramm is revealed as a rocker clinging to the remnants of past glories. Stick to the Foreigner Story DVD if you want to remember this band at their peak.—**DK**

CC



IGGY & THE STOOGES *Live In Detroit* (MVD/Koch)
 Recorded at last year's The Stooges' reunion, there's something inherently gloomy about this show. Sure they sound the same — the Asheton brothers haven't spent the past 20 years becoming technical virtuosos — but it's all a little sad. And the inclusion of "Skull Ring" from Iggy's new album is just wrong. Audience shots suggest people were having fun, but that feeling doesn't translate to the screen.—**JH**

CC



PEGGY LEE *Fever: The Music Of Peggy Lee* (Capitol/EMI)
 Organized around a live performance of Peggy Lee's "Is That All There Is?" *Fever* outlines Ms. Lee's lengthy career beginning in feature films and shorts, and later on television. This collection is comprehensive and includes pertinent commentary from Nancy Sinatra, Quincy Jones and songwriters Leiber and Stroller as well as lost TV footage of "Fever" not seen in 45 years.—**CB**

CCCC



MEAT BEAT MANIFESTO *In Dub 5.1 Surround* (MVD/Koch)
 Culled largely from last year's *R.U.D.K.?* album, *In Dub* mixes things up in six-channel sound with accompanying eye candy. Ben Stokes provides the visual collages and unfortunately, for the most part they just don't cut it. Looking dated (but not in a cool retro way), they get outright boring and actually detract from the music. You're better off sticking with the CD version and Windows Media Player's Visualizer.—**EC**

CC



TRIUMPH *A Night Of Triumph Live* (TML/Universal)
 Recorded in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1987 before 10,000 screaming fans, *A Night Of Triumph Live's* sound is immaculate and the light and stage show are mind-boggling visual productions. The problem is that by this point (their Sport Of Kings tour), Triumph had descended into the same lame keyboard rock that killed Van Halen. This DVD was meant to document Triumph at their biggest, but it really captures them at their worst.—**ABr**

CC