

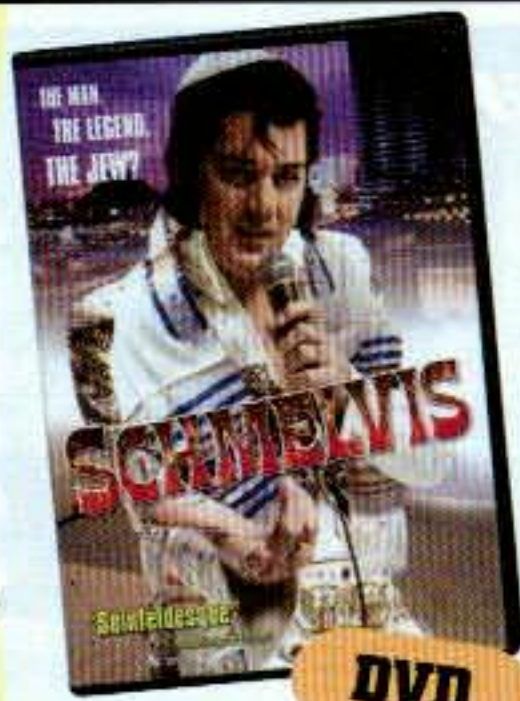
Queen: Rock Montreal & Live Aid

Eagle Vision Entertainment

DVD



As the front man for Queen, Freddie Mercury was true rock royalty. Now, 16 years after his death, you can witness this fact as Freddie and crew tear it down in the Montreal Forum. Taped over two nights on November 24th (exactly 10 years to the day before Mercury's death) and 25th of 1981, you can now sit front row center and catch Queen in all its rock and roll glory. What's truly fascinating about this DVD is how clean and clear the picture and sound flows from my set. Eagle Vision did a fine job restoring the concert from its original 35mm format. As an exceptional bonus they've tossed in the Queen Live Aid performance, arguably the best band to take to the stage on both sides of the pond for this historic event. This must-have DVD is a classic rockers wet dream. It will rock you and leave you feeling like a champion.



Schmelvis

MVD Visual

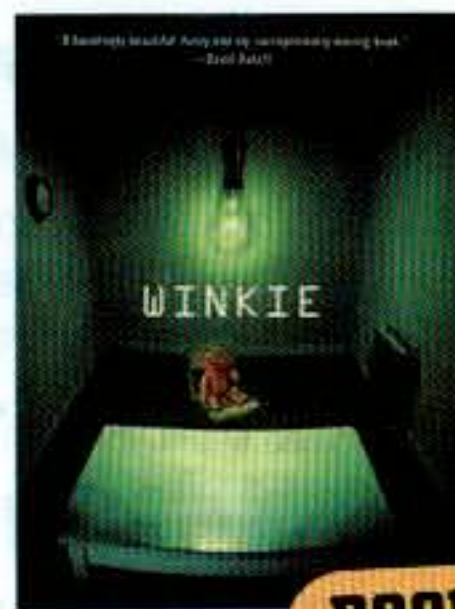
Schmelvis lives. Much like the Christians have their "conspiracy" movie (and book, of course) with the *Da Vinci Code*, now there's finally something for us of the Hebrew persuasion. Rumours abound that Elvis Presley's great-grandmother was Jewish, which was enough for a couple of filmmakers from Montreal to do a little sleuthing. So they took along a crew of six including a rabbi and Schmelvis himself—a Chasidic Elvis impersonator stealing the hearts of elderly women in old age homes—and set off on a mission that took them through the Southern States and eventually to Israel. Shot in 2000, this is more than just a hysterical documentary about attempting to uncover the King's un-goyim roots. Without giving too much away, *Schmelvis* was less about Elvis and more about public perception and the place of religion in the world. You may not walk away with a lot of insight, but *Schmelvis* makes up for this with a very real and very funny view of the world. Elvis may have left the building, but Schmelvis has just fried up a fresh peanut butter and banana *latke*.



The Bandit of Kabul

Jerry Beisler/Regent Press

Life is always more intriguing than fiction. Jerry Beisler's life has been so intriguing, there are times when reading his book that I had to put it down, have a toke and remind myself that this fantastical story really happened to the guy I just got off the phone with. It's part hippie horseman's travelogue and part psychedelic smuggler's tale through Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal and onward to help stock Amsterdam's new coffeeshops with some of the finest hashish in the world. Even if you were yet a twinkle in your parents' eyes back then, you'll be familiar with some of the folk that wandered in and out of Beisler's life like Jerry Garcia, Wavy Gravy and Joseph Petrie, who's own Asian hash smuggling career is documented in *The King of Nepal*. It's fast paced and the black & white pics add several thousand words to an already illustrious read.



Winkie

Clifford Chase/Grove Press

We now live in an era of constant fear and paranoia. Everybody we bump into could potentially be plotting to blow shit up. "Winkie" is a superb satire on this new post 9-11 era. In this case, Winkie happens to be a cute little teddy bear passed on from child to child until it ends up surrounded by a hostile, trigger-happy SWAT team and charged with over 9,000 counts ranging from terrorism to witchcraft.

Once over-aggressively dragged into custody, Winkie is brought to their knees through the unfavorable process of the 'guilty-til-proven-innocent' American justice system. And this is when the fun truly begins and when the charm of Chase's debut novel really begins to shine. Appointed the legal services of the aptly named Unwin and what seems like an insurmountable number of witnesses, most which have little or nothing to do with the trial, the interactions between all involved are both compelling and quite thought-provoking. A humorous yet quite real perspective on just how neurotic we all have become.



GAMES

Everyday Shooter

SCEA

Playstation 3

Its creator, Jonathan Mak, describes *Everyday Shooter* as "a queasy game" and that ain't no lie. Part arcade shooter and part sensory mind-fuck, each and every level of this game looks like an entirely different game of its own and is doped up with a relentless armada of unique vector-based nasties. Your goal, as in most shooters in this vein, is to basically maneuver your tiny glowing vessel, blast away at enemies and survive to collect points. Its game play and graphics are somewhat reminiscent of *Geometry Wars* on the XBOX 360, but *Everyday Shooter* takes them to a whole other level. You gotta be toked up to really appreciate this beauty. Every element seems to breathe with its own set of lungs. The geometric backgrounds sway with your ship's every move and the sound effects blend in as musical notes, with the game's mellow score. A key strategy to success in this game is to seek out the enemy that is capable of setting off a chain reaction, thereby destroying all enemies in proximity. There is nothing more satisfying than setting off a chain reaction that results in the annihilation of absolutely everything on screen.

Those of us ancient enough to remember hitting up mom and pops for quarters to play round after round of *Asteroids* or *Robotron* will get a definite kick out of this 2D-gaming gem. Do yourself and your PS3 a favor: slap down the \$10 and download the darn thing, but don't play it just yet if you're already feeling a little "queasy."

Other recommended downloadable PS3 games:

Super Stardust HD

FLOW

Calling All Cars