



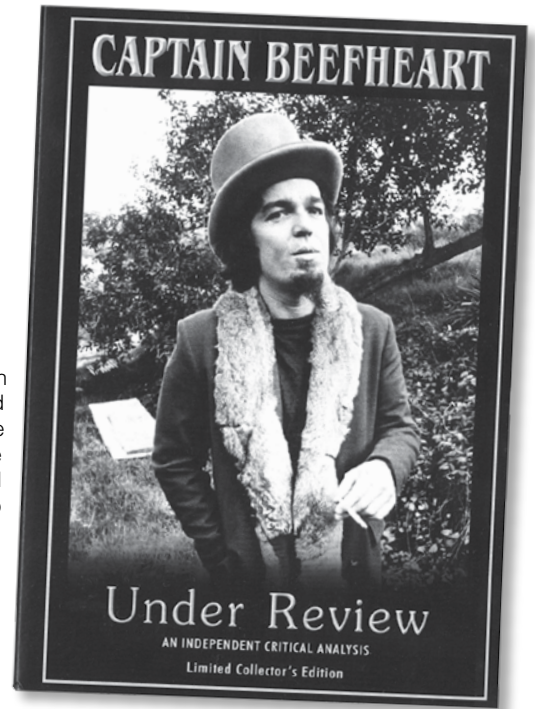
DVD REVIEWS

DOCUMENTING THE METAL MAN EARNING HIS WINGS

Sexy Intellectual's new "Under Review" series looked dubious to me. At first, I mistook it for a cousin of those piece-of-shit VHS "documentaries" that flooded the market a few years ago like "The Crazy World Of Frank Zappa." Those weren't documentaries, they were cheap, lazy ripoffs. Luckily for Beefheart fans, this DVD *Captain Beefheart Under Review* is the real McCoy. It's like an episode of A&E's Biography, but longer, more in-depth, and focusing on a man the suits wouldn't approve of.

Beefheart's career is covered from the outset through a combination of archival video and interviews with the Magic Band's members (the original rockin' combo and the guys who came later). The Captain himself isn't interviewed--no shock there, he's been a recluse for years--but practically everyone else is. The video and film they have on the disc is pretty amazing. Who knew that a young, pre-freak Beefheart was that good looking? He was teen idol cute in those early promotional clips. How they got hold of film Zappa conceptual artist extraordinaire

Cal Schenkel shot in the late '60s is beyond me, but how cool to see Drumbo back in the day, then interviewed here and now up in a tree. He looks different, but that's Drumbo, all right. Top to bottom, this DVD is engrossing. My only complaint is a lack of Zappa info, but if you're a Beefheart fan, this is a must buy.



NEVADA BAD ASS: BUTTING HEADS, RENO STYLE

Short films are like red-headed stepchildren in the film industry. There's very little commercial potential for a short-form, so the point of such a movie is basically to get your name out there. Short movies are like really, really expensive business cards that show whoever sees them what the filmmakers can do. The best shorts are engrossing, visually interesting, unusual or shocking. *Nevada Bad Ass*, a new short film directed and shot by local filmmaker Asa Gilmore, is all that.

Gilmore tells the story of two construction workers--one a gruff, experienced journeyman, the other a young, just-turned-professional worker. That they will come to blows is more or less certain from their exchange on-site, so the film is essentially about waiting. The journeyman waits for the concrete to reveal the flaws in the wall, and waits for the younger man in a bar; the audience waits for the confrontation. This short is *short*: 8 or so minutes from start to finish. In that time, though, we get a good look at Gilmore's camerawork, which is at times stunning and at times too static. There are a few too many ticks during the on-site argument, and a cut to a close-up or any camera movement at all would have broken the monotony. This scene also suffers a bit from lower audio quality than the rest of the film, but these are quibbles. *Nevada Bad Ass* is a solid debut, both for Gilmore and his cast. Too often in shorts, the acting isn't up to snuff or the premise is shaky. Gilmore's two leads are wholly believable, and the pace is just right for the story. Shorts are often meant as calling cards, and this one worked. I'd like to see more. *The Nevada Bad Ass DVD is available from nevadabadass.com.*



AWESOME: B-BY BOUILLABASSE CAUGHT ON VIDEOTAPE

I missed *Awesome: I F**kin' Shot That* when it was in theaters, so this DVD was a no-brainer purchase. It goes a little something like this: The B-Boys gave 50 fans Hi8 cameras to videotape the show, each other, whatever, and the band would edit the footage together to create a concert film. It's a cool concept and the results are about what you'd expect--wobbly, grainy footage of the band, the crowd, the toilets, the venue (Madison Square Garden), and so on. It works, though, because the Beasties have cultivated a cheese mystique through their videos with Spike Jonze and this film's director, Nathaniel Hornblower (King Ad-Rock/Adam Horowitz). The problem with concert films is that they get boring, and this is not boring. So it works, right? Not completely.

There were times during the show that I was hoping for some pro-shot footage, or barring that, something a little less spastic. But what the hecks, the music is great and at least there's a video document of the tour and this show in particular. Highlights include Sac native Mix Master Mike getting downright stupid on the turntables, the great Doug E. Fresh doing a human beatbox for an entire song, and the guys setting down their mics for a few numbers in their *In Sound From Way Out* mode. MCA on the upright bass, Mike D. on drums, Ad-Rock on

guitar. Plus they did "Shake Your Rump," and you can't beat that. The show is heavy on material from *To The 5 Boroughs* and *Paul's Boutique*, and the tracks sound great together. I thought the B-Boys would get up to some kind of comedy antics, but this DVD is just about the music.

Everybody likes the Beastie Boys and if you don't you should keep it to yourself.

