



THE SMITHS UNDER REVIEW

CAST Morrissey, Johnny Marr
DIRECTOR TBD
STUDIO MVD
RATING NR
BUZZ ★★

While Morrissey is 47 now, and still churning out albums (and quite good ones at that), the former lead singer of the '80s U.K. trendsetters The Smiths is undoubtedly a changed man. (For one thing, he's still alive, despite once claiming that he wouldn't make it this far—if he could help it.) So perhaps old

Moz should have a look at the Morrissey that once was, via this 90-minute documentary about his former band. With rare performances, interviews, TV appearances, videos and commentary on the state of all things Smiths, the doc promises contributions from producers Stephen Street, John Porter and Kenny Jones, little-known fifth Smiths member Craig Gannon (who pulled a Pete Best pretty quickly after joining), DJ and "early champion" of the band David Jensen, and others. Noticeably lacking from that list of names are any of the "real" Smiths themselves, though presumably archival footage from the four will shed some light on the history of the band. Plus, rare versions of songs and videos like "Hand in Glove," "This Charming Man," "How Soon is Now," "Bigmouth Strikes Again" and "Girlfriend in a Coma" are enough to make a

fan say, "Heaven knows I'm miserable now." In a good way. —SC



STAR TREK FAN COLLECTIVE: Q

CAST John DeLancie, Patrick Stewart
DIRECTORS Various
STUDIO Paramount
RATING NR
BUZZ ★★★1/2

Another four-disc set of episodes spanning across *Trek* series to collect stories on the same subject as chosen by fans who probably already own them all on DVD. This one puts the spotlight on John DeLancie as the omnipotent—but fatally flawed—alien known as Q.

Since Q first appeared early in *The Next Generation*, there are no *TOS* episodes in this set. Though Kirk & Co. had encountered omnipotent—or apparently so—characters, none gained the fan following that Q has. Why? None of them had the puckish personality of this mischievous godling, who is forever fascinated by the affairs of mortal beings. The set includes the episodes "Encounter at Farpoint," "Hide and Q," "Q Who?," "Deja Q" (with annotation), "Qpid," "True Q," "Tapestry" and "All Good Things" from *TNG*, "Q-Less" from *DS9*, and "The Q and the Grey," "Death Wish" (with annotation) and "Q2" from *Voyager*. Two episodes were already included in previous Collectives, but since they only had 10 shows per set, getting all 12 Qs in one box is a bit of a bonus. Next up is a Collective of Klingon stories. —BT

Like No Other Sunday Drive

Explore the very different sights of Rockstar Games' first foray into documentary filmmaking, *Sunday Driver*

Take "lowrider" car culture and documentary filmmaking, retrofit the two onto the frame of a classic "overcoming the odds" story, solicit the used car salesman-like skills of videogame maker Rockstar Games, and what do you end up with? *Sunday Driver*, a portrait of the Compton/Watts chapter of the car club known as The Majestics.

"I was watching the local news one night, and you know how they sensationalize everything," says director Carol Strong. "And they were talking about how 'these lowriders down on Crenshaw were causing all these problems,' and they show these cars that were completely restored, beautiful cars, and they were hopping up and down. And I went, 'Oh, my God, that's the coolest thing I've ever seen!'"

Strong, whose day job is working as a makeup artist for Hollywood films, saw something inherently artistic in the customized cars, things of beauty that aren't just automobiles, she felt, but chrome-laden bids at legitimacy on the part of the guys—mostly low-income, inner-city African-American men—who attached such importance to them.

"That was my prime objective, to show this art," says Strong. "It's something that deserves to be recognized!"

As for the Rockstar Games element, Strong says that the company basically came in and helped finance the completion of the long-gestating film (it took 10 years to make). Rockstar is of course responsible for the ever-popular *Grand Theft Auto* series, so the marketing and demographic tie-ins between that and *Sunday Driver* are obvious. In fact, a special edition of *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas* released last year included *Sunday Driver* as a bonus feature. Not that you have to be a gamer to enjoy the film, which is now out on DVD and UMD.

"I haven't even watched the game," laughs Strong, while simultaneously signaling her ignorance of the genre by substituting "played" with "watched." "I don't know the games, I don't know anything about that. I just know these [Rockstar] guys are film buffs."

And car buffs, obviously, as well. —SC

