

Music DVDs

Comedic Note

Wilco singer's solo video hits funny bone

JEFF TWEEDY

Sunken Treasure Live in the Pacific Northwest
Nonesuch | Warner

We've known for years that Wilco leader Jeff Tweedy was a brilliant songwriter. But here's something we didn't know: Dude is freaking hilarious. Check out his concert DVD *Sunken Treasure Live in the Pacific Northwest* and see if you don't agree. Filmed during a solo acoustic jaunt earlier this spring, the 90-minute follows Tweedy and his guitar from town to town as he strums Wilco numbers like *Shot in the Arm*, *I am Trying to Break Your Heart*, *Heavy Metal Drummer* and *War on War*, along with the occasional tune by his old band Uncle Tupelo and his side project Loose Fur. But dazzling as these intimate performances are, his between-song banter is almost as entertaining. Whether he's joking about his stint in rehab ("Maybe you heard about it ... It was on the crawl on MSNBC"), bantering with a female fan who wants to marry him ("You'd be soooo miserable") or convincing a crowd of chatty hipsters to "shut up and listen — to me!" he makes it clear he could have a pretty decent standup career if this music thing doesn't work out.

★★★★



Darryl Sterdan
MUSIC

FROM THE BIG APPLE TO THE BIG EASY: THE CONCERT FOR NEW ORLEANS

Various Artists
Rhino | Warner

As natural disasters go, Hurricane Katrina was a doozy. On the plus side, so was the benefit concert captured on *From the Big Apple to the Big Easy*. This two-disc set captures a massive, star-studded gig staged last fall at Madison Square Garden. Naturally, it's weighted toward New Orleans talent, with performances by Crescent City icons like Allen Toussaint, Irma Thomas, Dirty Dozen Brass Band and The Neville Brothers. Kindred spirits like John Fogerty and Jimmy Buffett also contribute, along with stars like Simon and Garfunkel, Bette Midler, Diana Krall, Elvis Costello and Elton John. That's the good



news. The bad news: The emphasis on certain artists seems lopsided — six songs from Buffet and only one from Elton? — and all the celebrity introductions interrupt the flow. Still, hardly a disaster.

★★★★

GINGER BAKER

In Africa
Eagle Eye | EMI

Hippie rock stars + too much money = common sense = entertainment. *Ginger Baker in Africa* follows the former Cream drummer on a bizarre 1971 odyssey through Northern Africa to Nigeria, where he supposedly wanted to build a studio. Armed with a Range Rover, a small camera crew and the sort of wide-eyed innocence that would get you taken hostage today, the ginger giant roams the Sahara, determinedly jamming with amateur and professional performers who all seem to have one thing in common — they're tolerating his hamfisted bashing on the off-chance he'll give them some money. Still, it's hard



not to smile at Baker's naivete — and at the live footage of an intense Fela Kuti performance in a rain-soaked open-air club.

★★★



BAD BRAINS

Live at CBGB 1982
MVD

Live at CBGB 1982 features the world's greatest hardcore reggae-punk band, captured at the height of their powers, playing in the birthplace of American punk rock, during a three-day residency that spanned Christmas Eve to Boxing Day of 1982. What more could any punk fan possibly want? Except perhaps the other three hours of footage that were left on the cutting-room floor to make this one-hour DVD of Bad Brains raising the roof at CBGB with a set that includes *Big Take Over*, *Banned in D.C.*, *Riot Squad*, *Right Brigade* and *Pay to Cum*. I and I want more.

★★★★1/2



JOY DIVISION | AC/DC:

BACK IN BLACK

Under Review
Chrome Dreams | MVD

Like all rockumentaries, how you feel about the British series *Under Review* is likely a reflection of how you feel about the topics in question. If you're a fan of Joy Division or AC/DC's *Back in Black* — the two latest subjects — you'll see these exhaustively researched DVDs as compelling chronicles of bands that managed to



survive the untimely deaths of their singers. If, on the other hand, you're not enamoured with the

minutiae of doomed Manchester post-punk Ian Curtis's life — or interested in hearing wanky British critics put AC/DC's finest album under a microscope for nearly two hours — you'll probably think *Under Review* is too obsessed for its own good. Either way, you'd be right.

Joy Division: ★★★★★
AC/DC: ★★1/2

HALLOWEEN FARE

Hilarious *Slither* is slimy good fun

Take zombies, alien worms and humans hideously deformed by contact with same. Add gallons and gallons of goo. Put those ingredients in the hands of geek-master James Gunn and let him infuse it with the same manic energy he wrote into the *Dawn of the Dead* remake. The result is *Slither*, a hilarious, self-referential neo-*Body Snatchers*, which takes the mickey out of the alien-monster genre the way *Scream* did slasher films. Moreover, for the kind of horror geek who keeps the *Scream* channel in business, it's a reference fest.



Slither opens with two dreary cops conversing inanely in their cruiser,

oblivious to a meteor crashing behind them (meteors being the chariot of choice for invading aliens). Meanwhile, Starla (Elizabeth Banks) and her husband Grant (Michael Rooker) fight over her not being in the mood. Grant finds a more willing participant in Brenda (Brenda James), and heads to the woods, where they stumble across the remains of the meteor and the world's biggest maggot. One spiny dart later, the game is afoot.

Slither aspires to be slimy fun on a stick — and it succeeds.

- Sun Media

RON JAMES

★★★★★ - Ottawa Sun
"a comedic tour de force" - Globe & Mail
"crowd in hysterics" - Edmonton Journal
"fits of helpless laughter" - Halifax Herald
"funniest man in Canada" - Victoria Times
"a wheezing, snorting, chortling, gasping night of hilarity" - Edmonton Sun

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