

VARIOUS ARTISTS

The Harry Smith Project Live DVD

[SHOUT! FACTORY] ★★★½

Iconic American folk songs originally selected by Smith show remarkable elasticity

This latest from producer Hal Willner, master of the tribute concert, is pieced together from shows organized in tribute to artist and archivist Harry Smith.



Music fans know Smith as the curator of the 1952 *Anthology of American Folk Music*, and the bulk of this live DVD finds performers tackling the songs Smith willed into contemporary consciousness. There's not much visual excitement as one performer

after another pays his or her respects in the staid auditorium (the only exception being Philip Glass performing a piano solo to accompany one of Smith's brilliant, proto-psychedelic animated films). But the music is a delight, as performers seize on the flexibility of these ancient compositions, transforming them into snarling avant-blues (Lou Reed's take on "See That My Grave is Kept Clean"), abstract rock (Roswell Rudd and Sonic Youth on "Dry Bones") and intricate jazz (Don Byron, Percy Heath and Bill Frisell doing "This Song of Love"). The Folksmen from Christopher Guest's film *A Mighty Wind* even pop in to add some levity with "Old Joe's Place." A few dry and overly reverent readings aside, this is a fitting tribute to a deserving subject. *Mark Richardson*

ROCCO DELUCA & THE BURDEN

I Trust You to Kill Me

[VIVENDI VISUAL ENTERTAINMENT] ★★

24's Jack Bauer fails to promote his band or entertain viewers

There are more effective and efficient ways to break an unknown band with no major-label support than by launching a costly European tour, but you couldn't tell that to the people behind *I Trust You to Kill Me*. This documentary tells the story of an unexceptional band (Long Beach's Rocco DeLuca & The Burden) on an unexceptional tour, with an exceptionally famous tour

manager (Keifer Sutherland) who's exceptionally unqualified for the job. While The Burden performs bland, bluesy jams in small clubs from Dublin to



Reykjavik, Sutherland bumbles around trying to round up audiences, who are typically much more interested in him than the band. Watching the actor, who plays one of the most decisive men on television, strive so ineffectually to live out his rock 'n' roll fantasies can be mildly amusing, but sitting by while so many people delude themselves so thoroughly is merely depressing. *Stephen M. Deusner*

DAVID BOWIE

Under Review 1976-1979: The Berlin Trilogy

[SEXY INTELLECTUAL] ★★★

Doc details three Bowie albums that brought avant-garde into the mainstream

As he's now over 25 years removed from his artistic peak, it's easy to forget just how much of a commercial and creative powerhouse David Bowie was in the '70s—and just how daring and unprecedented his self-imposed exile to Berlin was. Using that premise as a starting point, *The Berlin Trilogy* calls on a series of music journalists and Bowie contemporaries to explore the mythology surrounding his most experimental period, one that inspired a full flowering of his flirtation with ambient minimalism and the



German avant-garde over the course of three albums. Along the way, we're reminded that 1977's now-classic *Low* was once regarded as commercial poison by his record label, a disaster by critics, and hardly music at all by some fans. The DVD exposes common myths—that Brian Eno presided over and produced the albums—but the film largely maintains a scholarly tone, tracing Bowie's influences through Phillip Glass and Kraftwerk and spotting his fingerprints on world music that emerged in the '80s. Those wondering why Bowie is regarded as a visionary need look no further. *Matt Fink*

PASTE RADIO SELECT

RADIO ALBUM AIRPLAY

- 1 **THE DECEMBERISTS** The Crane Wife [CAPITOL]
- 2 **TOM WAITS** Orphans: Brawlers, Bawlers & Bastards [ANTI-]
- 3 **BECK** The Information [INTERSCOPE]
- 4 **BRAZILIAN GIRLS** Talk to La Bomb [VERVE FORECAST]
- 5 **JOAN OSBORNE** Pretty Little Stranger [VANGUARD]
- 6 **NAS** Hip Hop Is Dead...The 'N' [DEF JAM/COLUMBIA]
- 7 **THE HOLD STEADY** Boys and Girls in America [VAGRANT]
- 8 **THE SHINS** Wincing The Night Away [SUB POP]
- 9 **BOB DYLAN** Modern Times [COLUMBIA]
- 10 **TOMMY GUERRERO** From The Soil To The Soul [QUANNUM PROJECTS / TVT]

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INDIE BOX OFFICE [INDIEWIRE]

1. **Volver** [SONY PICTURES CLASSICS]
2. **The History Boys** [FOX SEARCHLIGHT]
3. **Dhoom 2** [YASH RAJ FILMS]
4. **Two Or Three Things I Know About Her...** [RIALTO]
5. **Flannel Pajamas** [NEW LINE CINEMA]
6. **The Last King of Scotland** [FOX SEARCHLIGHT]
7. **Our Daily Bread** [FIRST RUN/ICARUS FILMS]
8. **10 Items or Less** [THINKFILM]
9. **Sweet Land** [LIBERO]
10. **Samoan Wedding** [MAGNOLIA PICTURES]

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Simon Tong

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