

UB40 do not make mistakes. The sound is crystal clear, the lighting impeccable, the four-man horn section perfectly drilled. Ali Campbell, who sings lead on the majority of songs, delivers them with seasoned professionalism – though the Health & Safety Executive would have something to say about the dangers of singing while chewing gum.

The show doesn't really catch fire until six songs in, when Homely Girl and Kingston Town herald a rise in the musical temperature. From then, it's a triumphant reggae romp through favourites such as Rat In Mi Kitchen and Red Red Wine, with Brian Travers impressive on various wind instruments and Astro doing some toasting and looning. Norman Hassan emerges from behind his percussion to hurl his considerable frame around the stage as he growls Johnny Too Bad, the high spot in an entertaining concert. *Mike Atherton*

Neil Young Under Review 1976-2006

★★★
Chrome Dreams/Sexy Intellectual
SIDVD 522

From needing it to losing "it"

Whereas the first *Neil Young Under Review* sent you back to your Young records in awe, this one sends you scurrying away. *Live Rust*, *Comes A Time* and other moments of brilliance such as *Like A Hurricane* are still worth getting excited about, but when even the

talking heads find it hard to enthuse over the likes of *Everybody's Rockin'*, or great albums such as *Freedom* and *Ragged Glory* with "good but flawed" enthusiasm it has a knock on effect. Some of them are such nonentities (*Landing On Water*, for instance), they're not even mentioned, and *Living With War* seems tacked on by the narrator in a rush.

There's plenty of live footage mostly taken from official videos, though the *Trans-era* clips may have bypassed all but the most devoted. Young's overplayed part in punk is neatly picked apart and reconstructed more convincingly under the "godfather of grunge" banner, and you can at least celebrate an artist who has always followed his muse, to sometimes devastating effect when he clicks with the zeitgeist. Ultimately, though, do you really want to watch a bunch of people talking about albums that you don't really want to hear? *Jason Draper*

Deep Roots Music

★★★★★
Screen Edge/MVD Visual EDGE 49 D
Classic reggae series debuts on DVD



Originally broadcast on Channel 4 in 1982, this exhaustively researched six-part series covers the history and evolution of

Jamaican music. Its first appearance on DVD, it covers the formative styles of mento, ska, rocksteady and sound-system culture, to the then present day of 1981-82 in the immediate aftermath of the death of Bob Marley. Enthusiastically narrated by Mikey Dread, *Deep Roots Music* is a classic document of its time, shot on film on location in Jamaica and impressively crammed with an informative mix of interviews with folklorists, cultural historians, musicians and an impressive stash of previously unseen footage.

Part One examines the African roots of traditional Jamaican music and how diverse forms such as pogo, mento and calypso morphed into ska with rare archive footage of The Skatalites and Toots & The Maytals. Part Two concentrates its focus on the sound-systems through charting the evolution of DJing and toasting with a combination of historic footage of and interviews with Tommy McCook and The Skatalites, Millie Small, U-Roy and the Jack Ruby Hi-Power sound-system pumping out the watts on a Saturday night Ocho Rios. Crucial business all round. *Grahame Bent*

The Hours & Times

★★★★★
VDI Entertainment VDI 0011
DVD debut for an acclaimed indie mop-top movie

On the eve of the outbreak of Beatlemania in 1963, John Lennon took a short holiday to

Barcelona with manager Brian Epstein. Christopher Munch's thoughtful and provocative film speculates on what might have happened on that brief escape from the spotlight, an intriguing portrait of an often awkward relationship, handled with a subtlety rarely seen in standard biopic fare.

Framed in monochrome and running under an hour, it's almost a chamber piece; heavy on dialogue and debate, the central theme of Epstein's unrequited love is more nuanced than nudge-nudge. David Angus presents him as a scholarly, self-conscious and troubled gay man, pitiful rather than predatory. Ian Hart's Lennon is, at turns, tender, aggressive, mocking and prone to mood swings. His treatment of Epstein veers from respect to ridicule and back again in seconds, as does his behaviour toward a dolly-bird air hostess and wife Cynthia, phoning from England.

Hart is utterly convincing, the voice and mannerisms near perfect. But Munch's study of sexual uncertainty would still have worked had it not focused on a pair of celebrities, and his deft handling of the material coupled with a keen eye for detail reaped rewards when the movie walked off with prizes at the Sundance and Berlin film festivals. *Terry Staunton*

Rock DVDs In Brief

LYNYRD SKYNYRD *Freebird...*
The Movie & Tribute Tour
(Freemantle ★★★) sees the

Southern rock collective on stage, with vintage clips from the likes of Knebworth alongside behind-the-scenes home movie footage, band interviews and a photo gallery. The archive material is accompanied by a reunion tour concert, plus a documentary, all totaling over three hours.

Rocking from beyond the pale comes in the form of Scottish hard rockers NAZARETH, whose *From The Beginning* (SonyBMG ★★★) presents a *BBC Sight & Sound In Concert* performance from 1977 in its entirety, along with seven period TV clips, band interviews and a photo gallery.

In a bluesier vein, THE CHICAGO BLUES REUNION *Buried Alive In Blues* (Eagle Rock ★★★) documents the development of the Chicago blues scene, taking in interviews and music from key players such as Barry Goldberg, Nick Gravenites and Corky Siegel. There are also bows from BB King and Buddy Guy, and the 84-minute trawl is bolstered by a 15-track CD.

SAMMY & THE WABOS *Live! It Up! In St Louis* (Image Entertainment ★★★) sees Hagar and co blitz through 18 of his finest solo and former band cuts, ably assisted by ex-Van Halen colleague Michael Anthony, among others. Featuring such corkers as Heavy Metal, Right Now and Best Of Both Worlds, the package includes promos, behind-the-scenes footage and band interviews, plus Cabo scenery. *Tim Jones*



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