

Reviews by Darren Ressler



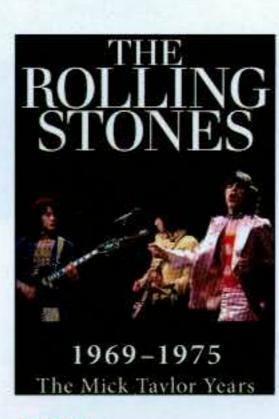
Babylon Central (ESL Music)

Based on a fictional story written by Thievery Corporation's Eric Hilton, Babylon Central is a low-budget flick about a Chomsky-reading pretty boy messenger by day (who flits around Washington, D.C. on a Vespa) and DJ by night who gets caught up in a powerplay between a Saudi prince and his attempt to change the currency of oil. The film is plagued by mediocre acting, stereotypical characters, and a script laden with profanity. But at least Thievery and their cohorts' music manages to shine in the background.



U2 - Let Them Be: The Second Chapter (Chrome Dreams)

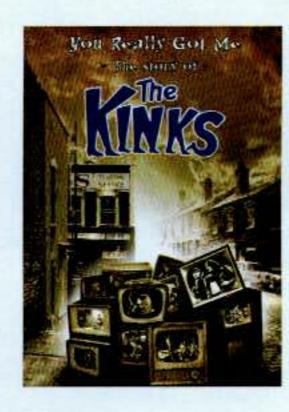
Produced by Daniel Lanois and Brian Eno, U2's seventh album, 1991's Achtung Baby, came after 1988's dreadful Rattle and Hum. This well-done two -DVD documentary investigates the rifts within U2, and relates how Eno "parachuted in" and made peace while the band while recording went on in Berlin. It's good to see dance-rockers EMF, The Stone Roses, and Jesus Jones getting credit for their influence on the album containing "One," which is perhaps one of the best pop songs ever time.



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The Rolling Stones / 1969-1974: The Mick Taylor Years (Sexy Intellectual)

While the core songwriting machine of Jagger and Richards has been fueling The Rolling Stones' engine since the group's inception, Mick Taylor played a pivotal role on early Stones albums like Let It Bleed, Sticky Fingers, and Exile on Main Street. This DVD features interviews with Taylor, John Mayall (Taylor joined his Bluesbreakers at the tender age of 17), and various journalists. Clips of Taylor performing with the Stones and assorted achieve footage makes this a solid package.



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The Kinks / You Really Got Me: Story of the Kinks (ABC Entertainment)

The Kinks were one of the best bands to break through during the British Invasion. This 87minute DVD gives a good overview of the band's early days and includes commentary by front man Ray Davies, Dave Davies, and Mick Avory. Live renditions of "You Really Got Me," "'Til The End of the Day," "Waterloo Sunset," and "Celluloid Heroes" are excellent. Even their '82 pop hit "Come Dancing" sounds terrific. It's too bad that bassist Pete Quaife (who died in June) didn't live to see the release of this DVD.