

THE BUSINESS BOOKS

THE BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN VAULT: AN ILLUSTRATED BIOGRAPHY

Meredith Ochs
(Omnibus)

8/10

Yes, there have been a lot of books about The Boss but there's very few that come close to being as fun, exciting and in-depth as 'The Bruce Springsteen Vault'. The reason for that is this book covers what you'd expect – the life story of the 62 year old American rocker, from his childhood in New Jersey to forming the E Street Band and his breakout album 'Born to Run' and an exploration of his evolution over the years and his influences and inspirations. There's also new interviews with Springsteen insiders and artists he has collaborated with. But the real gold here comes in the form of ten pieces of removable memorabilia, such as ticket stubs, posters and handwritten lyrics that give an intimate, close look at some special moments in Springsteen's past. There's even his draft card for the Vietnam War, for which he was declared "unfit for military service". The beautiful hardback book includes over 100 images including gig photos (some of which are unpublished until now), album covers and personal photos. Overall, this is a great read and fun to explore for Springsteen fans, as you can lose yourself in this vault for hours and hours.

Ian Chaddock

FILMS & DVDs

JOBRIATH A.D. (Factory25)

7/10

Often compared to David Bowie but with a short, ill-fated career, it's fair to say American musician Jobriath never really achieved the huge success that his management and record label had hoped for. His self-titled debut album was released in 1973 to a marketing and media frenzy and comparisons to Bowie, Elton John and Mick Jagger. With S&M themes on the daring 'Take Me I'm Yours' and some impressive costumes and performances, it's no wonder that with his glam rock sound and approach he captured the imagination of many for a short time in the '70s and Morrissey is a long-time fan. Calling himself "rock's truest fairy," he was the first openly gay rock singer to be signed to a major record label. He retired from music in 1975 and moved into a rooftop apartment at New York's infamous Chelsea Hotel. Sadly his story ended tragically when he died from AIDS in 1983, aged just 36. A fascinating story of a '70s artist, with all his ups and downs, 'Jobriath A.D.' is an intriguing watch.

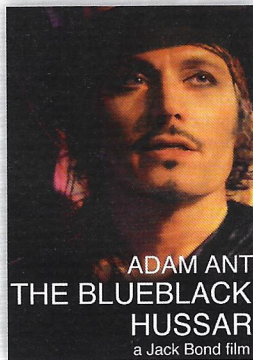
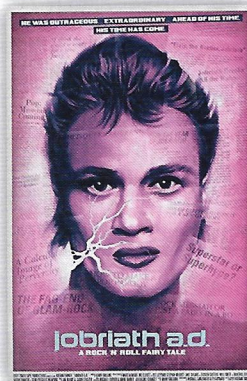
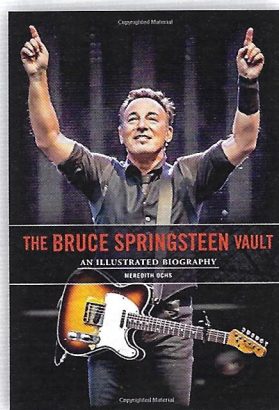
Karen Turner

ADAM ANT: THE BLUEBLACK HUSSAR (Sunrise Pictures International)

6/10

Jack Bond's documentary covers Adam's erratic and often chaotic initial return to the stage in an undeniably candid manner, but it seldom gets to the heart of the real Adam Ant. There's a tendency to concentrate too heavily on the public persona Adam wears and the people around him and at an hour and a half there are too many meandering scenes where a stronger director's cut would have benefited the film no end. The most valuable footage, apart from the live clips featuring many early songs, are when Adam talks honestly about his rise to stardom and the pressures which accompanied it. The guest appearances from the likes of Mark Ronson, Jamie Reynolds and Charlotte Rampling add little but when Adam meets up with artist Allen Jones, who was so influential in his early visual work, it's clear that his passion for art is as great as his passion for music. The documentary closes with Adam entering the stage at Hyde Park on a hot summer's day in front of an expectant audience clearly waiting for the hits and starting with the dark, claustrophobic 'Plastic Surgery'. It's a fitting image to leave on and one which possibly says more about the complexities of Adam Ant than the rest of the film put together.

Andy Peart



THE JAM: ABOUT THE YOUNG IDEA

(Eagle Vision)

8/10

Released in conjunction with the 'About the Young Idea' exhibition at London's Somerset House and a recent best of CD with the same name, this DVD set is part of a bigger celebration of The Jam and, in many ways, the best. Charting the story of the mod favourites from their formation in the early '70s, through chart success and to their eventual break up in 1982, there's extensive new interviews with all three members (Paul Weller, Bruce Foxton and Rick Buckler) as well as archive live footage and contributions from fans, journalists and others. The documentary is on disc one while disc two (titled 'When You're Young') includes The Jam's performance on German TV show 'Rockpalast' in 1980. The bonus features include additional interviews and four extra live tracks – two from London in 1979 and two from New York in 1981. The deluxe edition includes not just the two DVDs but also a CD of the 1980 live show in a 40 page DVD sized hardback book. It's a great documentary seen from all sides – the band members, the fans, the journalists, and the live show shows just how exhilarating they were at their peak. The definitive film on the history of The Jam, 'About The Young Idea' is essential viewing for any long-time fans or for anyone who's curious about the mod giants' influence.

John Truman

The Jam L-R: Paul Weller, Rick Buckler, Bruce Foxton

