

Reviews

DVD Review

Various Artists

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All My Loving

MVD Visual (TPDVD101)

Grade: ★★★★★

When "All My Loving" — an incendiary look at '60s rock and roll and its effect on pop culture — first aired in 1968, the BBC refused to show it during regular broadcast hours. It was relegated to after-midnight status, where juxtaposing footage of a guitar-humping Jimi Hendrix and a blood-spouting Vietnamese soldier was better suited.

All these years later, it's still a powerful piece of filmmaking. Documentarian Tony Palmer combines interviews and performances (featuring the Beatles, Cream and Frank Zappa)

with jarring news clips of burning bodies, racist-fueled beatings and war-ravaged cities. It's a harrowing 52 minutes, made even more so by the freak-out clips Palmer uses to drive home his thesis (which pretty much amounts to: You think these kids are f*cked up? Look what our leaders are doing to the planet).

Filmed in hazy shades of psychedelia, Syd Barrett-era Pink Floyd is just as disorienting as archival film of police walloping on bloodied protesters. Most of the peace-pushing artists have little to say: Paul McCartney skirts around issues, Zappa blathers pointlessly, and one of Hendrix's bandmates ruminates on shagging groupies. Still, it's a riveting document of an era on the cusp of combustion.

— By Michael Gallucci

gelled into a signature sound.

Sans bonus tracks, Collectors' Choice's reissue is interesting but hardly essential. Nevertheless, given its competition from Brit pop and mop tops, The Mugwumps signaled the possibilities for divergent ambitions.

— Lee Zimmerman

Nat King Cole

Love Is The Thing/Where Did

Everyone Go

Collectors' Choice Music (CCM-825)

Grade: ★★★★★

Sings For Two In Love/Sings Ballads

Collectors' Choice Music (CCM-827)

Grade: ★★★★★

Songs From St. Louis Blues/Looking

Collectors' Choice Music (CCM-828)

Grade: ★★★★★

The Nat King Cole Estate and Collectors' Choice Music are reissuing the acclaimed vocalist's Capitol Records LP catalog on CD, incorporating two vinyl 12-inchers into a single disc. Among the initial releases, these CDs feature many popular music sides from the 1950s, when Cole, Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald immortalized the works of Irving Berlin, Rodgers and Hart, the Gershwins and other contributors to the American songbook.

The sessions loom large as collabora-

tions between authoritative singers and the empathetic arranger-conductors who helped select the songs and shape the music.

Cole's only No. 1 LP, *Love Is The Thing*, topped the charts for two months during mid-1957, when albums largely remained expensive adult indulgences and kids gobbled up rock 'n' roll singles.

This 24-song CD comprises that

Letters," a 1945 film track that would hit for Kitty Lester and Elvis Presley. Cole's supple voice carries the smooth romance "When I Fall In Love" and the moodier "When Sunny Get Blue." *Where Did Everyone Go?*, the Cole-Jenkins contemplation on loneliness and lost love, peaks on the title cut, the misty saloon-saga "Back At Joe's," and lyricist Johnny Mercer's "When The World Was Young," which evokes sentiments not unlike Sinatra's "It Was A Very Good Year" period.

Cole teamed with conductor Nelson Riddle on *Sings For Two In Love* and *Sings Ballads Of The Day*. Originally a 1953 10-inch disc, *Sings For Two In Love* was expanded to its 12-song format two years later. Riddle arranges lush, intimate ballads like "Love Is Here To Stay" and "A Handful Of Stars," as well as the big-band styled "This Can't Be Love" and "You Stepped Out Of A Dream."

Cole possesses the musician's knack for phrasing, whether backed by piano on "Let's Fall In Love" or strings on "Autumn Leaves." Released in 1956, *Sings Ballads Of The Day* compiles Cole's chart singles from the prior two years, including the Top 10 love melodies "A Blossom Fell" and "Darling, Je Vous Aime Beaucoup." It also has the "Unforgettable"-follow-up "Unbelievable," the smoky "Angel Eyes," and "Smile," composed by Charlie Chaplin for his 1936 film "Modern Times."

Songs From St. Louis Blues/Looking



Capitol Records

swoon-inducing masterwork and its world-weary 1963 counterpart, *Where Did Everyone Go?*; the sessions were arranged and conducted by Gordon Jenkins, who earns co-credit on the front and back covers of the original LPs. On both albums, Jenkins frames his sophisticated string arrangements around Cole's singular baritone.

Love Is The Thing has such familiar titles as a silky "It's All In The Game," a sensational "Stardust," and "Love

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