

Tim Buckley "my fleeting house" DVD (MVD) Unlike the cheapo (though great) documentary DVD's usually released by MVD, this is as good as you're going to get on the elusive, departed Buckley. Interviews with his musical collaborators and biographer frame fantastic full length performance clips from American and European TV shows, including some programs that genuinely pushed the artistic limits of TV rock (and not in a cheesy German chromakey way, but with brilliant camerawork and editing). One disappointment is that in a TV interview with Steve Allen (where Buckley surprisingly seems to be bullshitting Allen and Meadows about how brilliant he thinks Allen's songwriting is as the elder couple tries to talk hep) is not accompanied by Buckley's performance on that show. Otherwise this is an amazingly convincing DVD that presents both Buckley's straighter stuff and more experimental music in a wonderful, enriching way.

Blues, Rags and Hollers: The Koerner, Ray and Glover Story DVD (MVD) Apparently, this documentary on pioneers of the 60s folk-blues revival was done on video for public access or something and expanded over the years (with the same budgetary restrictions). But don't let the production values fool you. These gentlemen are fascinating because they are full of great stories and bursting with musical talent. The three traditionalist virtuosos did their thing at a time when their thing seemed like the next big thing, allowing them to record for major labels and tour the country with the greats, yet the heart of this piece is the 90s reunions and performances which show as much heart and love as anything they did in their supposed heyday.

Blackalicious "4/20 Live in Seattle" (MVD) This concert film demonstrates that this hip hop act has a nice live instrumental/DJ combo backing them up, but it didn't convince me that the band wouldn't sound better without the nerdy raps mucking up the mix. And judging by the crowd, apparently despite their name they only have Whitealicious fans. And despite the 4/20 reference, even when I got super high I didn't find this interesting. But in the interviews the dudes are super charming, so I hope a lot of people buy this. I just hope they don't all ask me to watch it with them.

All My Loving DVD (Voiceprint) First things first: You are absolutely required to buy this unmissable DVD and watch it, so you might as well not even read this review, just get it and enjoy. But for you non-heeders, here's the deal. At the height of the rock n roll 60s Tony Palmer makes a documentary for the BBC in which he will explain the Beatles, Zappa, Donovan, the Pink Floyd, Hendrix, the Stones, and the Who (all featured and interviewed) to the general populace. And he will do it using none of the hackish techniques that seem mandatory for music documentaries. Instead he creates a semi-linear, impressionistic, charged manifesto that it is hard to believe was ever shown on TV anywhere. Allowing the musicians to earnestly – and they are so earnest it hurts – express how monumental and crucial they believe the culture they are involved in to be, we get a piece that is far too jarring and frightening to be called idealistic, but also too sympathetic and good to be a work of cynicism. Bonus material is an interview with Palmer done by perhaps the worst interviewer in DVD bonus material history, yet the filmmaker is able to salvage the would be squandered opportunity by the sputtering poor listener and still tell the fascinating story of how this film came to be and how it remarkably got on the air.

Solomon Burke "The King Live At Avo Session Basel" (MVD) Drawing from classic material and his recent hipster-crossover albums, the Behemoth of Soul demonstrates a magical voice that could charm, chill, or cold clock anyone with even half a functioning earhole. Note that this DVD features an entire concert, meaning the 12-minute instrumental vamp before he shuffles throneward, musical numbers from two of his 1,263 children, and an extended sing-along by the audience after he lumbers off. But excuse those 25 minutes and have nearly an hour of pure soul genius.