

raphy recognized properly by the art world became his mission. This film is Maloof's journey as a detective, following leads and asides, trying to put Maier's photographs into her life's context. **VERDICT** What emerges is a totally fascinating portrait of an artist, an independent woman completely in touch with her inner self. Highly recommended for all viewers; photography buffs will truly connect with Maier's vision. [A 2015 Oscar nominee for Best Documentary Feature.—Ed.]—Ellen Druda, Half Hollow Hills Community Lib., Dix Hills, NY

Half the Road: The Passion, Pitfalls & Power of Women's Professional Cycling. color.

106+ min. Kathryn Bertine, Bertine Enterprises & Springwound, dist. by First Run Features, 800-229-8575; www.firstrunfeatures.com. 2014. DVD UPC 720229916042. \$24.95.

Closed-captioned. SPORTS

For years, female professional athletes have been fighting for equal money, most notably in golf and tennis. This film makes the case for equal money for pro women cyclists. Marathon pioneer Kathrine Switzer clearly explains the idiocy of outmoded beliefs about women's frailty, beliefs that still seem to direct cycling's governing body, the International Cycling Union. Female cyclists also want more races (men's events currently outnumber women's four to one), races of longer distances, and a women's Tour de France. The film makes its case with great skill, charm, and humor while offering a brief overview of the history of women's competitive cycling, an explanation of different races, and footage of some horrible crashes. The very likable spokespeople make great ambassadors for their very demanding and relatively clean sport. **VERDICT** Although there are segments that could have used more editing, this fine film would appeal to students of women's studies and human kinetics, as well as to the cycling and fitness communities.—Kathy Ruffle, formerly with Coll. of New Caledonia Lib., Prince George, BC

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Burt's Buzz. color. 88+ min. Jody Shapiro, Everyday Pictures, Buffalo Gal Pictures, dist. by Kino Lorber, www.kinolorber.com. 2014. DVD UPC 738329132125. \$19.95; Blu-Ray UPC 738329140922. \$24.95. BIOG/BUS

This excellent documentary chronicles Burt's Bees personal care products company and its eponymous and iconic co-founder Burt Shavitz. Shavitz (b. 1935) grew up in Great Neck, NY, and worked as a photojournalist. He dropped from sight after attending the first Earth Day rally in Central Park in 1970, settling in upstate New York before moving to Maine, where he began to sell honey by the roadside in

the mid-1970s. Following the growth of Burt's Bees into a multi-million-dollar enterprise and a move of its operations to North Carolina, Shavitz parted from co-founder Roxanne Quimby and returned to a reclusive life in rural Maine. Through an arrangement with Burt's Bees corporation, Shavitz represents the brand internationally while promoting his personal values of humility, simplicity, and living off the land. **VERDICT** This sensitive investigation into the life of a reluctant celebrity is highly recommended.—Cliff Glaviano, formerly with Bowling Green State Univ. Libs., OH

Tony Palmer's 1973 Film About Hugh Hefner: The Founder and Editor of Playboy. color & b/w. 53 min. Tony Palmer, Gonzo Multimedia, dist. by MVDvisual, 800-888-0486; www.mvdb2b.com. 2014. DVD UPC 5060230864471. \$18.95. BIOG/COMM

Hugh Hefner and his once-subversive Playboy brand have been around long enough to seem quaint, yet this short look at Hefner's empire circa 1973 takes viewers back to a time when there was a rebellious, almost innocent nobility in pursuing the Playboy lifestyle, if one could afford the accompanying accessories and technology. Filmmaker Palmer doesn't challenge Hefner or present contrary viewpoints and instead drops his cameras in medias res and shares what they see. Or so it seems, until one gives it some thought: Palmer may not be Hefner's PR man, but this aggrandizing portrait is suspiciously handsome, complete with musical selections by Ravel, Wagner, and more, with Hefner telling his story in his own words in interview segments and voice-overs. **VERDICT** With some nudity and sexual imagery, as a time capsule, this cross-section of Hefner's life before and during Playboy's heyday is diverting and fine for casual viewing. However, it is not substantial enough to consider for any library collection.—J. Osicki, Saint John Free P.L., BC

★Music from the Big House. b/w. 87 min.

Bruce McDonald, Caché Film & Television, Matson Films, www.musicfromthebighouse.com. 2014. DVD UPC 850604004023. \$24.95; Blu-ray UPC 850604004030. \$29.95. CRIMINOLOGY/MUSIC

The Louisiana State Prison, more commonly known as Angola, has a notorious history and remains the largest maximum security prison in the United States; it contains the largest number of inmates with life sentences in the country. One would expect this to be a house of the blues—indeed, the most famous inmate may have been Huddie Ledbetter, better known as Leadbelly—and not a place infused with a joyful noise. And, yet, there is a thriving musical culture in

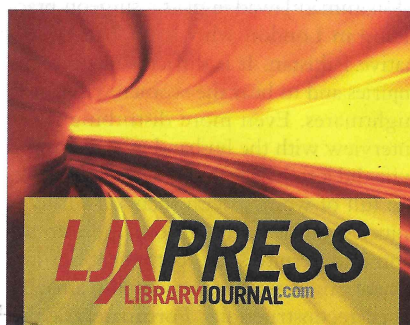
Angola, and it is wonderfully documented in McDonald's compelling and beautifully filmed documentary featuring Canadian singer-songwriter Rita Chiarelli joining inmates for an emotional and provocative performance. Filmed in black and white, the production displays a richness about which noted folklorists John and Alan Lomax (visitors in the 1930s) could have only dreamed. The interviews and performances will remain with viewers long after the last note has sounded. **VERDICT** A must-see portrait of contemporary U.S. prison life, and a reminder that flowers—i.e., country, blues, and gospel—will continue to grow through the pavement.—Bill Baars, Lake Oswego P.L., OR

★God Loves Uganda. color. 83+ min.

Roger Ross Williams, Full Credit Prods. & Motto Pictures, dist. by First Run Features, 800-229-8575; www.firstrunfeatures.com. 2014. DVD 720229915960. \$24.95.

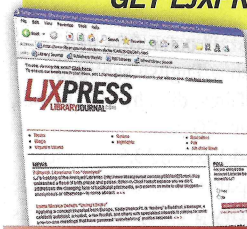
Closed-captioned. INT AFFAIRS/GENDER STUDIES

The rise in Uganda's rigidly institutionalized antigay sentiment has largely been recognized as an initiative of the African nation's churches. What's less known is that those congregations receive much of their financial and logistical support for this effort from well-funded American evangelicals



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