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Thursday, Sep. 16, 2010

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One Leonard, two Pauls with Pearl Jam on the side

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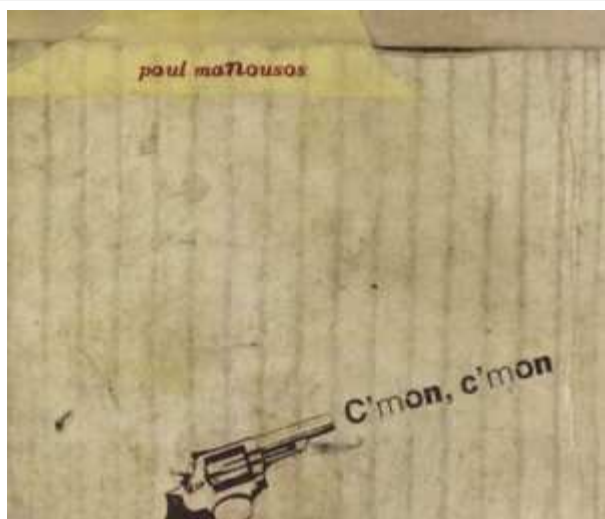
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A tour documentary about a long-ago Leonard Cohen European jaunt tour, a new "Under Review" DVD about Pearl Jam, and two singer/songwriters named Paul make up the balance of today's column, with a reminder about a "grunge" book released in 2009 thrown in at the end.

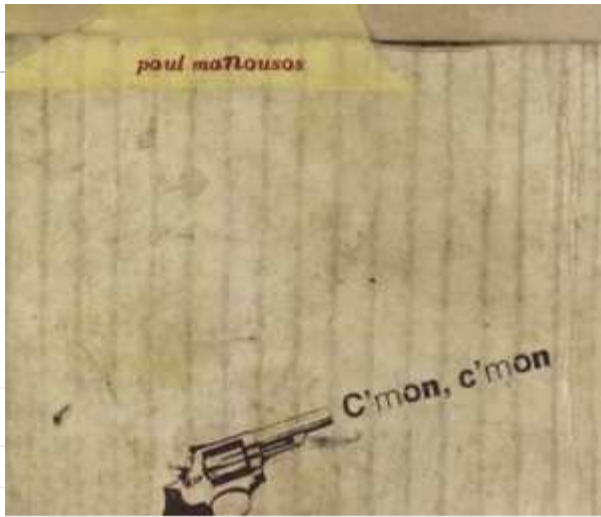
'Bird On a Wire,' Leonard Cohen (MVDvisual, HHHH)

This Aug. 31 DVD contains celebrated British filmmaker Tony Palmer's 1972 European tour documentary (beginning in Dublin, March 18, 1972, and ending in Jerusalem, April 21, 1972), which had a limited 1974 cinema run before it disappeared. Palmer restored it in 2009.



I'm familiar with Joe Cocker's wonderful version of the movie's title song, and many quality cover versions of Cohen's "Hallelujah," but the rest came as a surprise for this viewer.

The film has many enjoyable moments. Cohen discussing success, meeting fans, jamming with band members and others. His vocals are far from rangy, but they suit his songs and get the complex lyrics across. It's easy to understand why more conventionally talented singers enjoy putting their stamp on Cohen's compositions. His backing band (singers Jennifer Warnes and Donna Washburn, guitarists Ron Cornelius and David O'Connor, upright bassist Peter Marshall and organist Bob Johnston)



provides empathetic backing for the sometimes emotionally wrenching tunes. Cohen fans or curiosity seekers, seek this one out.

'Another World,' Paul Turner (Turtle Productions, HHH1/2)

'C'mon C'mon,' Paul Manousos (Shock & Fall, HHHH)

These two Sept. 14 releases don't have much in common other than the first names of the artists, but your reviewer has chosen to arbitrarily group them together. First, we'll talk about Paul Turner.

This CD from New Zealander Turner is his second one and in Australia. He has recently produced a feature ("g Punk") due for stateside release this year.

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This isn't a party album by any means ... unless party-givers want guests to indulge in quiet conversations.

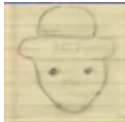
Paul's guitar and voice are ably supported by Portland musicians Heather Wood (piano), Skip Elliot Bowman (bass), Shaun Oldham (drums) and cellists Skip Vonkuske and Guy Curd. Other drummers and bassists appear, but drums are used so sparingly that this could almost be a bluegrass album.

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[supadres](#) wrote on 09/17/2010 09:29:33 AM:
dang

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