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IT'S LIVE! IT'S LIVE!

No, not really. It's DVD. But live entertainment preserved forever on DVD is a growth market, which is really saying something in the current economy. What we've compiled here isn't necessarily a pure assemblage of concert or performance fare, but it's all in the spirit of such with an eye toward those who just might be a bit tired of TV and movies, and looking for something a bit more... musical... comedic... whatever.

The Gospel at Colonus is the filmed version of the famous 1985 Philadelphia performance of this fascinating stage production which infuses classic Greek theatre with a uniquely American "gospel" sensibility. You've never seen anything like it, and probably never will again. It's classic... yet avant-garde at the same time. And Morgan Freeman is terrific. Don't miss this... you'll regret it.

Cyrano de Bergerac is to do right in English, though the longstanding Anthony Burgess translation still manages to impress. We'd still recommend A) the Depardieu film in the original French or B) the Jose Ferrer English-language adaptation. But shy of those, this is pretty great staging of a popular favorite. Never mind Jennifer Garner's neck or the fact that she's completely miscast as Roxane -- Kevin Kline just gnaws the daylights out of the lead part. Lots of fun, despite the nearly two-and-a-half hour length. Also starring Daniel Sunjata as Christian.

James Brown: Double Dynamite! is a terrific Music Video Distribution title that puts two classic Brown performances together for a, well, "double dynamite" DVD. Bown's famed Studio 54 performance from 1980 and his equally impressive Chastain Park, Atlanta, performance five years later give a complete sense of the man's unparalleled performance genius. Every popular song is here plus plenty more. "Sex Machine" is amazing, "Cold Sweat" will make you break out in one, "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag" is incomparable and, of course, "I Got You (I Feel Good)" is so much fun it ought to be illegal.

k.d. lang Live in London is available on both DVD and Blu-ray, but if at all possible buyers should focus on the Blu-ray, and not so much for picture as for sound. There is a strong, noticeable difference in the audio quality even though the DVD is no slouch with DTS 5.1. But the DTS-HD is a quantum step up in fidelity, and that's a big deal when one is dealing with an artist whose music is as tonally rich and rangy as k.d. lang's. Joined by the BBC Concert Orchestra, lang delivers an inspired evening of music that's just a sheer joy to listen to. Truly one of the most iconic and distinctive voices and talents currently working. Also features an interview with lang which, though nice, is largely superfluous.

Make 'Em Laugh: The Funny Business of America is a terrific three-disc boxed set featuring the original six-part series on the remarkable history of American comedy. Billy Crystal hosts, Amy Sedaris narrates and a veritable army of talent passes across the screen in such glorious, memorable fashion that you don't hardly notice four hours go by. There are gobs of bonus goodies here, too, which is a little overwhelming since the material itself is quite a lot to absorb. But the good news is... this is great for repeat viewings. Also hugely educational.

Videogame Theater we list here only because for a certain segment of the population... this stuff is live entertainment. It was within the confines of the all-American arcade, in fact, that two mere mortals actually became DigiGods many decades ago. This 78-minute assemblage of madness actually skewers the world of videogames courtesy of some really engaging animation and puppetry. It's first-rate satire, though at times it pushes the envelope in some weird and unexpected ways that won't be for all tastes. But there's more than enough here to justify the diversity.

Ike Turner & The Kings of Rhythm Live in Concert 2002 is fascinating to watch for anyone who, like us, didn't realize that Ike was still performing in public. Hell, we thought he'd have crawled away in a corner somewhere after Laurence Fishburne skewered his reputation in "What' Love Got to Do With It?" Well, the old guy still has it and he does demonstrate, despite his faults, that he's not lost too many steps by nailing such classics as "Tequila," "Proud Mary," "Baby's Got It" and many more. Extras include a great documentary entitled "The Early Years" and assorted "snippets" from other performances around the globe.

The Best of GG Allin & the Murder Junkies is deeply, deeply, deeply, profoundly disturbing. This is strictly for anyone who knows precisely who GG Allin was and why this disturbed sociopath inspired such a following among some seriously screwed up youth. Allin thankfully killed himself two months shy of his 37th birthday, but his insanity continues. Some people find this stuff entertaining -- we find it sad, but fascinating. Sort of in a clinical-like way. Man, what a scary freak.

The Cure Trilogy is incredibly timely as the legendary '80s band is now back in fashion with a new album. This Blu-ray title isn't immediately obvious as Blu-ray except by a tiny bug on the spine and the size of the unfortunate DigiPak case. That said, this live Berlin concert from

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