

Born to Boogie gets glammed up

T.Rex reissue headlines music DVD lineup

There are scores of great classic rock movies out there that deserved to be unearthed, refurbished and preserved as the historic documents they are. *Born to Boogie*, of course, is not one of them.

Directed by Ringo Starr — need we say more? — this 1972 trifle starring glam ham Marc Bolan and T.Rex was a self-indulgently silly affair cobbled together out of so-so live footage, recording studio jams and inane improvised set pieces.



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Although it's been more or less out of print for decades, you haven't heard anybody complaining —

which made it kind of surprising to find this superbly restored version from Sanctuary / EMI. Even more surprising: This reissue is so good it's worth buying, despite the mediocrity of the movie.

Following the lead of The Who's *The Kids Are Alright*, the producers put *Born to Boogie* through the ultimate restoration process, refurbishing it frame by frame and remixing the sound from old 16-track tapes. Along with the rejuvenated 87-minute film, you get nearly four hours of extras, including: The uncut concert footage featuring hits like *Jeeperster*, *Baby Strange* and *Bang a Gong (Get it On)*; a second concert that was filmed but unused; lengthy docs on the band and restoration, narrated by Bolan's son Rolan (yes, his name is Rolan Bolan; hey, it was the '70s); multi-angle and audio sections that allow you to view or listen

to the musicians separately; footage of T.Rex's first TV gig; and more.

The best stuff is the live fare, which works far better on its own than it did between footage of Bolan sipping tea with bearded nuns or riding in a convertible with Ringo in a mouse outfit (like we said, it was the '70s).

Granted, a lot of it can be repetitive and self-serving. And sure, maybe this is the video equivalent of pimping out a Pinto. But whatever; ultimately, it works, turning *Born to Boogie* into a classic rock movie that never was.

★★★★



Low

Low in Europe
Plexifilm |
Sonic Unyon

Low wouldn't seem like interesting subjects for a tour documentary. After all, this slocore trio from Duluth aren't exactly rock 'n' roll road-dog party animals. They're more like an anti-rock band. They are thoughtful, deeply spiritual and shockingly normal. Two of them are married. They travel with their toddler in tow. They often perform in churches. They seem to spend most of their offstage time riding in a bus, doing acoustic radio shows and hanging out. And their quietly beautiful music is unlikely to spark much mayhem. So from a rock-doc standpoint, we don't know if following them around Europe with a camera crew to shoot this 50-minute film was the best idea. But we do know this: It does make *Low in Europe* one of the most intimate rockumentaries you're likely to see. And somehow, that just seems right.

★★★

Death Cab for Cutie

Drive Well, Sleep Carefully
Plexifilm | Sonic Unyon

The O.C. introduced them to mainstream America. Their first major-label album is coming out this month. Clearly, Washington indie-rock quartet Death Cab for Cutie are about to become megastars. So you're going to be seeing and hearing a lot from them in the near future. Perhaps you'd like to get up to speed with *Drive Well, Sleep Carefully*, a tour doc shot during one of the hard-working group's U.S. road trips last year. You won't learn a whole lot from the

interview segments, which cover the usual ground — touring is boring, a bus beats the van, yadda yadda yadda. But the 13 performances compiled on this 86-minute set will tell you that they craft elegant, intelligent pop yet still manage to rock. And that's really all you need to know right now — trust us, you'll have plenty of time to be overexposed to these guys soon enough. Extras include the usual acoustic performances, rehearsal footage, home movies and leftover interviews.

★★★★1/2



Violent Femmes

Permanent Record
Rhino | Warner

Although they emerged at the start of the MTV revolution, Wisconsin folk-punk oddballs The Violent Femmes weren't exactly embraced by the video generation. Maybe they just weren't telegenic enough. Maybe their acoustic-trio lineup wasn't rocking enough. Or maybe tunes like *Country Death Song* and *Add It Up* weren't commercial enough. Whatever. The point is that even though *Permanent Record* shares its name with a recent CD anthology, it isn't the video anthology you might expect. Yes, you do get seven clips for cuts like *Gone Daddy Gone*, *Children of the Revolution* and *American Music*. And you get a bonus street performance of *Kiss Off*. But the bulk of the set consists of a 1991 live gig at a sweltering Virginia club, where the band tear through faves like *Blister in the Sun*, *Kiss Off*, *Good Feeling* and more. It may not be a definitive anthology — some sorta documentary would have been nice — but it's a fine time nonetheless.

★★★1/2



Sadaharu

New & Alternate Careers in Dance

Universal Warning | MVD

Sure, Pennsylvania post-punks Sadaharu know how to make a big noise. And their singer can scream with the best of them. But they also know how to write a song. They never met a twangy riff they didn't like. And their singer is usually screaming something intelligent. Of course, you could glean all that from listening to either of their albums. But since these boys are unlikely to make it to the Great White North anytime soon, you could get the best of both worlds — audio and video — by introducing yourself to them with this live DVD. *New and Alternate Careers in Dance* has two half-hour club shows, along with a couple of videos and some interviews. Not bad for a band supposedly named after a Japanese baseball hero.

★★★

