

## Did Somebody Say Reissues?

No matter how hard I tried to just focus on one band and one album, I couldn't just end this piece without touching on a few other things that have recently come my way....

Aside from their stint as the reigning kings of disco, the Bee Gees had built a robust career steeped in inventive, '60s pop rock. The finest example of this is the sprawling double album *Odessa*. Originally released in 1969, the album came cloaked in red felt, featuring songs that ran the gamut from epic baroque pop ("First Of May") to country ("Marley Purt Drive"), twisted, offbeat rock ("Edison") and even prog, as in the textural title track. Rich

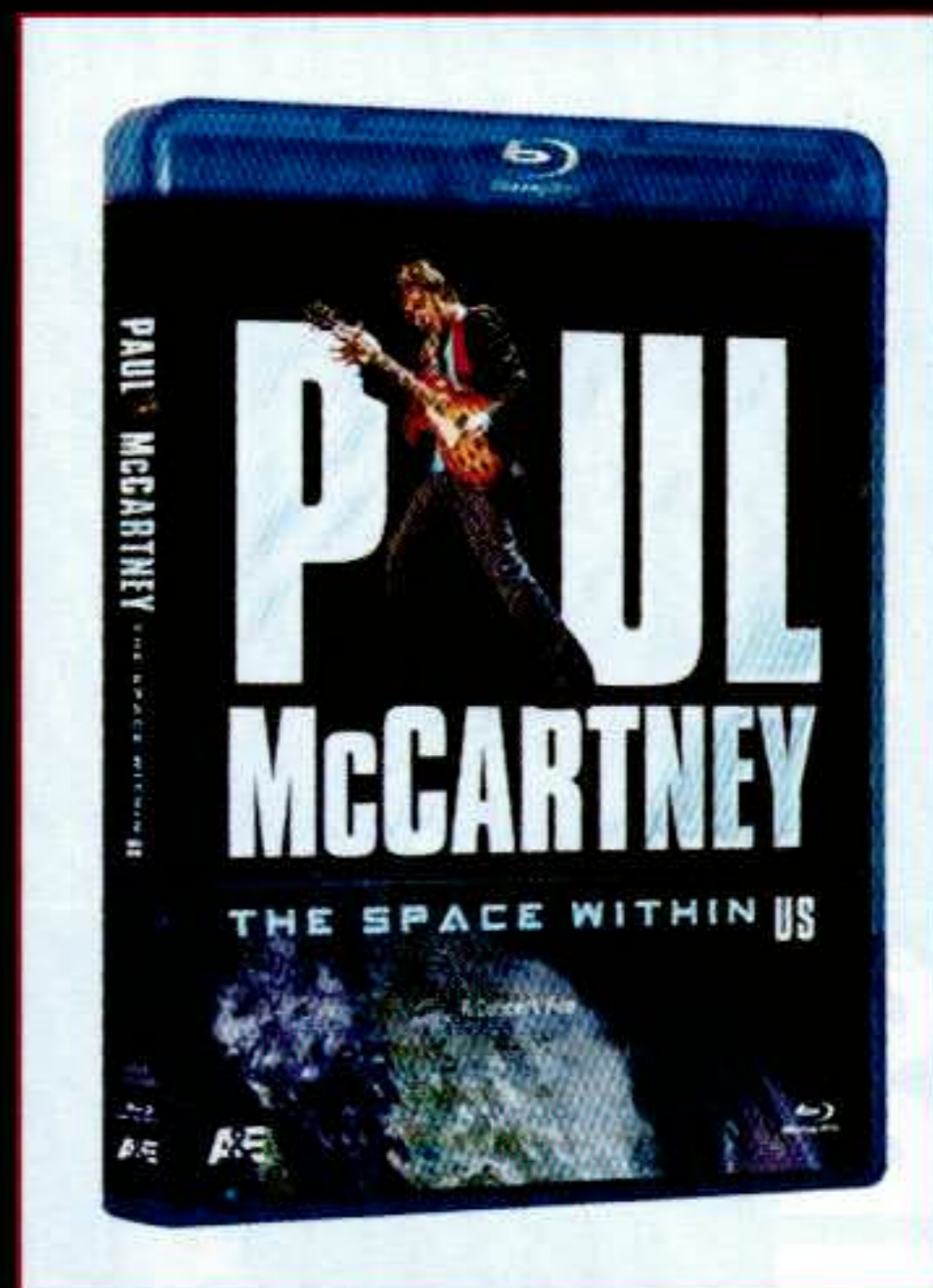
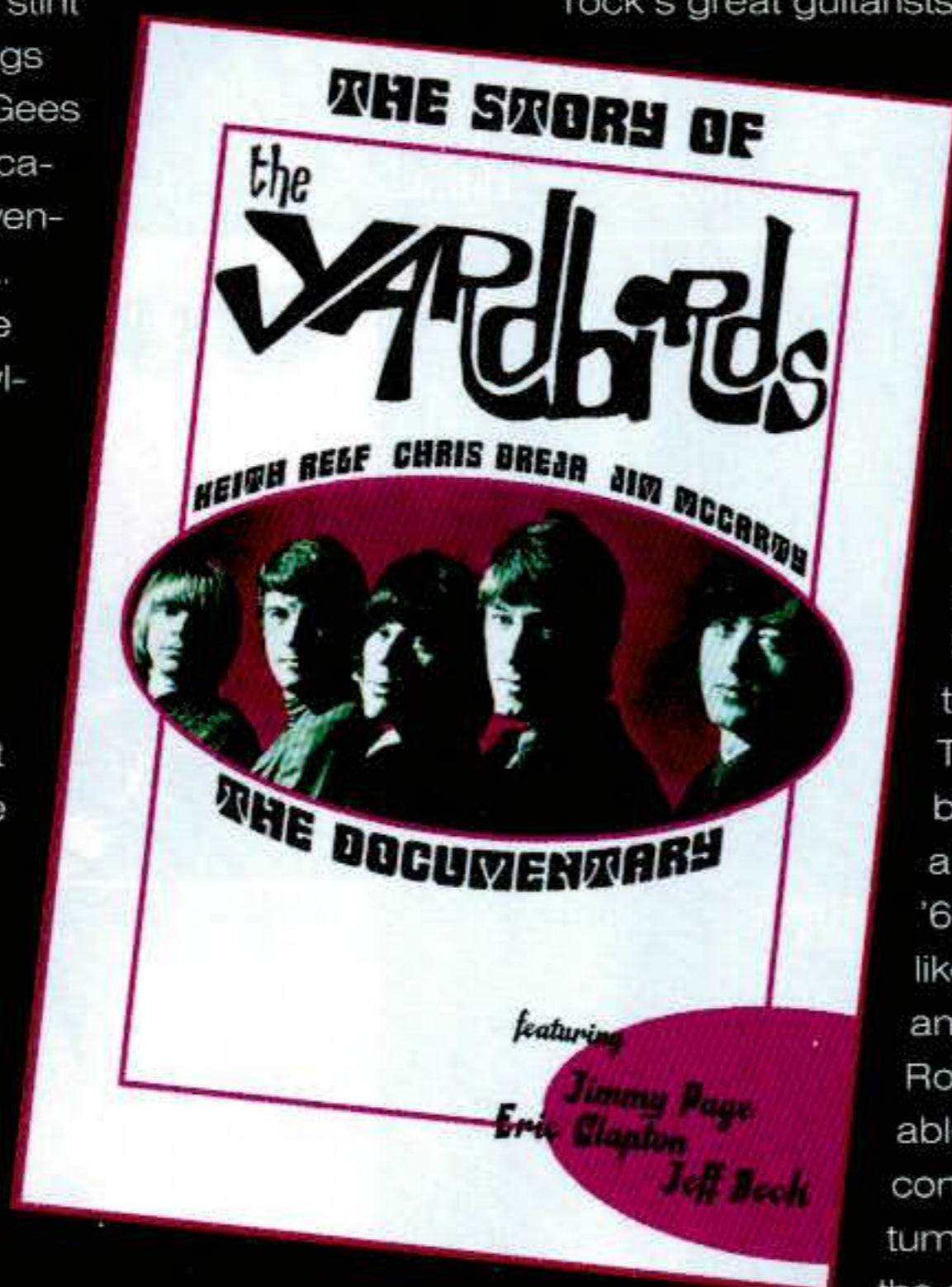
in symmetry and atmospherics, it's easily the band's best work. The 40th anniversary edition has just been released by Rhino Records and includes 22 bonus tracks and perfectly rendered felt packaging.

*The Story of the Yardbirds* is a new DVD (MVD) chronicling the history of one of the most grossly undervalued bands in rock. Not only did the band spawn three of

rock's great guitarists—Eric Clapton, Jeff

Beck and Jimmy Page—it was instrumental in the transformation of the blues into hard rock, as well as in emphasizing pop's more psychedelic elements. More offbeat than the Stones and consistently heavier than The Who, the Yardbirds caused quite a stir during the mid '60s with numbers like "For Your Love" and "Train Kept A Rolling," but weren't able to keep up the commercial momentum, thus splintering at the end of the decade.

The remains of the band would eventually go on to become a little UK outfit known as Led Zeppelin. Although the technical quality of the DVD is a bit shoddy in spots, this hour-long foray into the band's history is quick, concise and packed with some killer live clips, plus interviews including all three guitar gods. There's even a very primitive early version



of what would later become Zep's "Dazed and Confused."

Out of all of the ex-Beatles, in my view, Paul McCartney's solo work has held up best—this coming from someone who's always favored John as a proper Beatle. In 2005, McCartney embarked on an unprecedented tour of the States that had him playing dozens of Beatles numbers, along with his classic solo stuff. New Blu-ray *Paul McCartney: The Space Within Us* (A&E) has the best bits from it. This feature-length concert film has almost 30 tracks, including "Magical Mystery Tour," "Eleanor Rigby," "Hey Jude," "Maybe I'm Amazed" and others. While I'm generally a bit skeptical of old rock dogs hitting the nostalgia circuit, this is not at all one of those situations. Once you get past the implausible notion that you're watching an actual Beatle in crisp hi-def, the performances are fresh and inspired, with no hint of sell-out to be had. JK. 