

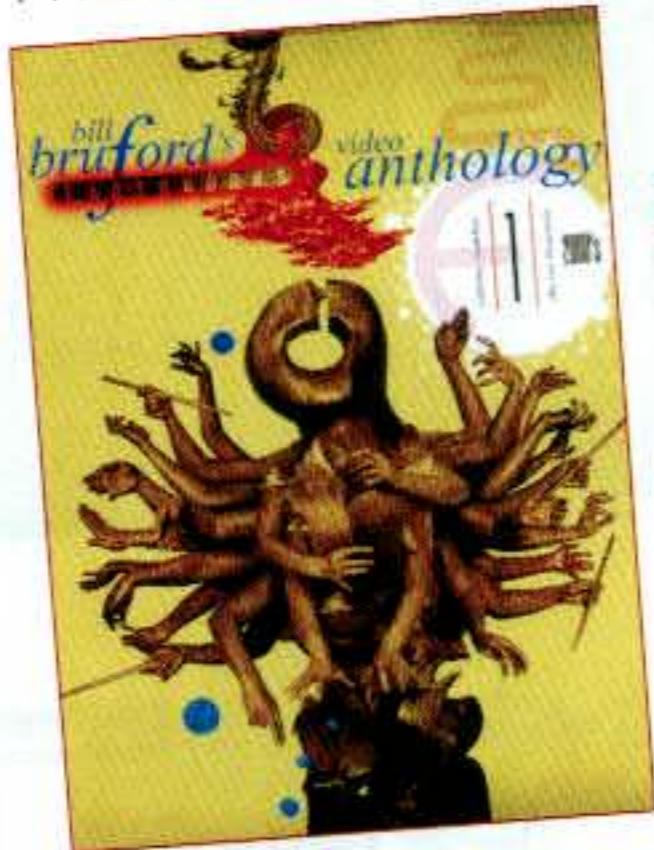
WRITER KEVIN WIERZBICKI

[WATCH & LISTEN]

DVD Players

FROM JAZZ TO HOUSE, THESE ARE FOUR CONCERT DVDS WE LOVE

<< “ ... straight-ahead traditional jazz ... ”

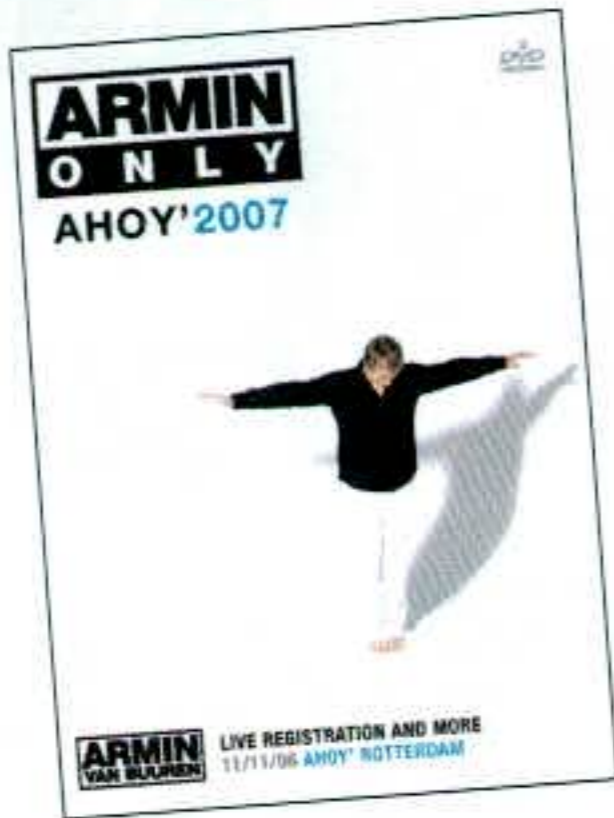


BILL BRUFORD'S EARTHWORKS

Video Anthology Vol. 1-the 2000s

Summerfold

It's unlikely that anyone would catcall for "more cowbell!" during Bruford's performance of "Footloose and Fancy Free," but the drummer begins the song by tapping out a rhythm on a double cowbell while Mark Hodgson leans into the open top of his piano, muting strings as he plays chords. Bruford is very familiar with avant-garde techniques having spent time with seminal prog-rock groups Yes and King Crimson but here his Earthworks quartet plays mostly straight-ahead traditional jazz. Never a show-off, Bruford makes the complex polyrhythm of "Beelzebub" seem like child's play and generously shares the spotlight with each band member through this 14-song set of instrumentals.

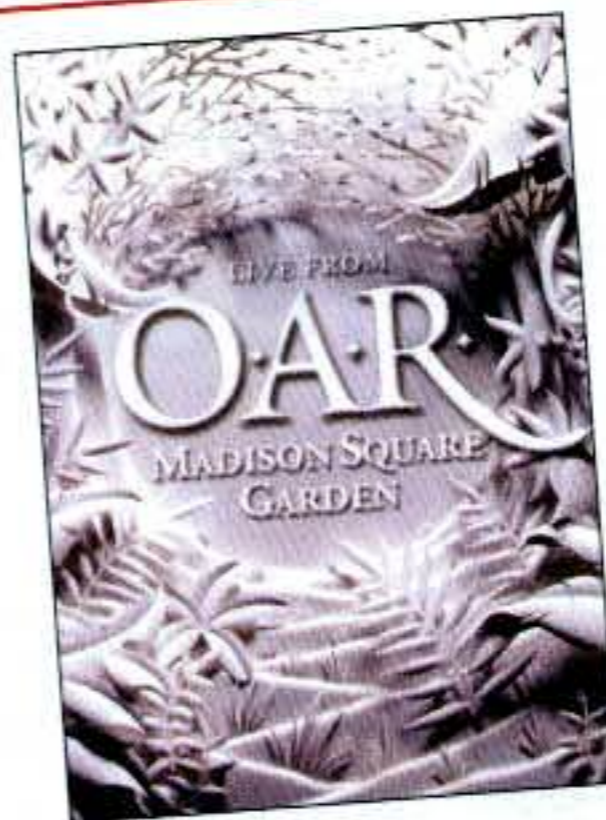


ARMIN VAN BUUREN

Armin Only 2007-Live at Ahoy, Rotterdam

Ultra

You'll need a velvet rope strung across your front door and a few beakers of vodka drinks, but top-rated DJ Armin Van Buuren brings everything else to this party. His shows have been known to last for nine hours; this one percolates for about 120 minutes. Guitarist Eller Van Buuren (Armin's brother) plays several songs while Armin is seen only in profile, dealing the beats from behind a curtain. Suddenly the curtain falls, fireworks shoot everywhere and the unbelievably large crowd in Holland's Ahoy Sports Arena goes completely nuts. Guests include the five-man drum team Percossa, who absolutely steals the show with their play on "Indian Drums."



O.A.R.

Live from Madison Square Garden

Atlantic

Surprisingly, the band opens the show with their one radio breakthrough, "Love and Memories." It really doesn't matter to these loyal fans what song is saved for last; they know every tune by heart and adore them all equally. O.A.R. likes the Jamaican sound and Jerry DePizzo's sax work turns songs like "Untitled" into ska rave-ups while the sizzling reggae of "Dareh Meyod" is straight out of Trenchtown. With this stellar show the band officially puts their dues-paying days behind them.



LES CLAYPOOL

Fancy

Prawn Song

"We don't play satanic music here in the Fancy band!" Claypool's announcement at the beginning of "Holy War" gets a laugh out of the crowd, and why not? Claypool's singing voice is squirrely but appealing and he tweaks it up to "mischievous imp" level when he speaks, often times through a pig face mask. But the music is serious; this side-project from the leader of Primus captures a weird genius not heard since Frank Zappa departed. Free-jazz sax blasts from Sherik and sitar played guitar-style by Gabby La La make Fancy an unforgettable viewing.