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Thursday, May 1, 2008

Marquee

Posted on **Fri, Apr. 25, 2008**

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American Speedway makes waves with new album

"Ship of Fools," American Speedway (Prophase/MVD Audio,

)
This late-January 2008 release comes from a Philadelphia band that has been winning crowds over with a heavy, loud, fast and catchy live show. They formed in early 2007 and soon made the grade as a powerful band that could move a tough crowd, playing shows with Murphy's Law and Electric Frankenstein. Michael Thursby Speedway (lead vocals/guitar), Billy Angry (bass/vocals), Johnny Griswold (guitar/vocals) and Chris Callahan (drums) play what they term "real" rock 'n' roll, often performed at punk velocity without much vocal melody.

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Comparisons to Zeke and Supersuckers aren't far off target. Pile-driving rhythms and churning guitars power these songs. This is illustrated by the opening one-two punch of the title song and the band's "theme."

"Ship of Fools" bemoans a perilous state of living, while "American Speedway" deals with literally driving the blues away. Other highlights on this wild ride include the aptly-named "Make Some Noise" and "Don't Tread on Me."

Ask for this one locally or shop online at [www.americanspeedwayrocks.com](#).

"The Clash Live: Revolution Rock," The Clash (Epic/Legacy,

)
This April 15 DVD contains a 67-minute documentary comprised of live songs performed by The Clash (vocalist/guitarist Joe Strummer, guitarist/vocalist Mick Jones, bassist Paul Simonon and drummers Nicky "Topper" Headon, Terry Chimes and Pete Howard). There are two bonus 1981 TV interviews, and a "just play music" option to bypass the narration.

I've never believed that The Clash was "the only band that really mattered," but they brought political and social awareness to a "punk scene in England that wouldn't have gotten started without the Ramones album."

However, these live performances show The Clash as a fiery-hot live band. Their albums quickly expanded musically, drawing disparate elements into their sound like rockabilly, reggae and dub. This Don Letts retrospective, shown on big-market PBS stations in March, precedes the June 3 debut of Julien Temple's Joe Strummer documentary, "The Future is Unwritten." That DVD will be released by Legacy, following the May 2007 release of the June 22, 2007-reviewed soundtrack.

Highlights here include "White Riot," "Tommy Gun," "London Calling," "Clampdown" and many more. Clash fans and punk archivists need this one. Get it locally or visit [www.legacyrecordings.com](#).

"Blues At Montreux 2004," Carlos Santana (Eagle Vision,

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