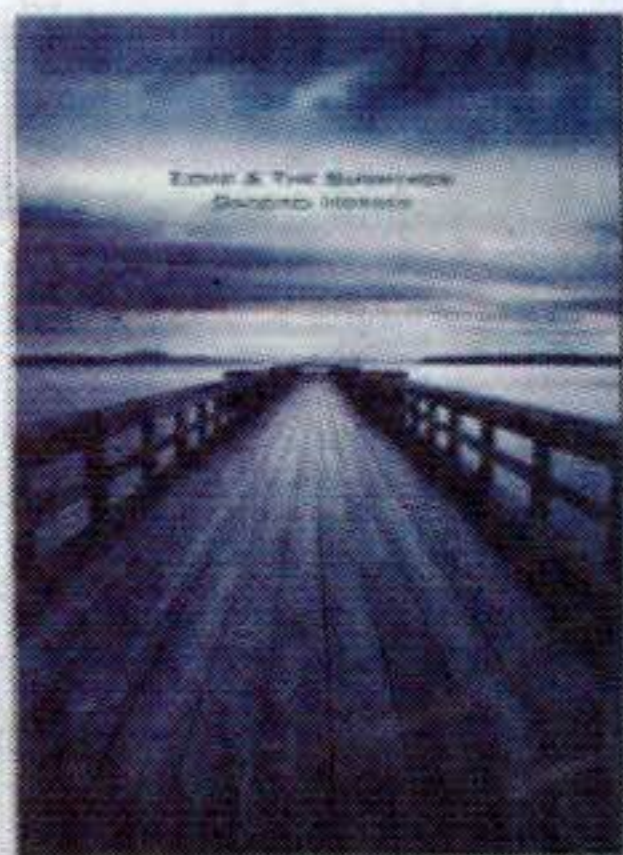


# Music Reviews



By Samir Shukla

## Echo & the Bunnymen Dancing Horses (MVD Visual)



Ian McCulloch and company, including fabulous guitarist Will Sergeant, were one of the catalysts of the postpunk new wave movement of the early 80s. They created moody power pop where McCulloch's oft-cynical lyrics and signature voice were accented by Sergeant's uplifting and haunting guitar work. *Dancing Horses* documents a haze-filled live

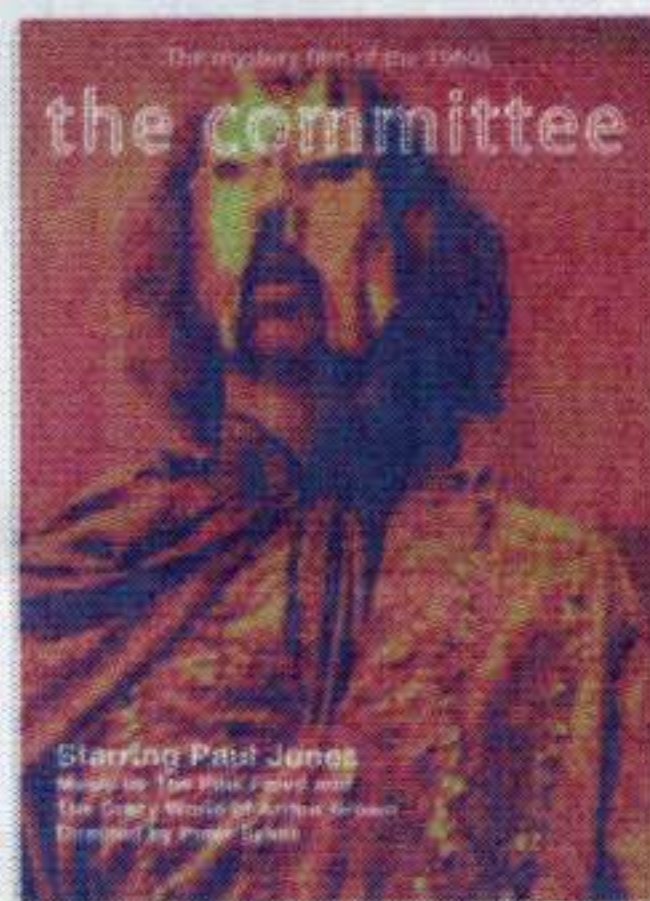
show that is reminiscent of their music, written for long drives on foggy nights or in pulsating smoke-filled nightclubs. The band originated in Liverpool, England in 1978. The band has undergone a number of lineup changes, breakups, and reformations in its nearly 3-decade history, but in 2007 they re-signed to their original label.

This disc also features interviews with McCulloch and Sergeant, the founders of the band. Recorded November 1, 2005 at Shepherds Bush Empire in London, the disc's highlight is the band's beloved classic "Ocean Rain." Other performances on the 20-song set include "Nothing Lasts Forever," "The Killing Moon," "Bring On The Dancing Horses," and their biggest hit "Lips Like Sugar." Echo & the Bunnymen's melancholy post-punk and psychedelic rock brought the group a slew of hits in the UK during the 1980s. They didn't have many radio hits in the United States but attracted a significant cult following. *Dancing Horses* is proof of their songwriting prowess, musicianship, stage presence, and staying power.

## The Committee (Eclectic DVD)

This short (58 minutes) British art film from 1968 largely featured unknown actors specializing in improvisation. It was reissued recently on DVD. *The Committee* is a biting satire on some of the themes of the era, including draft evasion, social mores and dating standards, civil upheavals, and experimentation with drugs. *The Committee*, starring Paul Jones of Manfred Mann's Earth Band, is a unique and controversial film of the 1960s. The loosely knit story explores the conflict between individual freedom and the bureaucracy that most "committees" represent.

The confounding opening scene, where a hitchhiker decapitates the driver's head under the hood of a car and then magically sews it back on with the dazed driver never suspecting anything, is strange to say the least. But this isn't a gore movie, but rather a satirical romp where the quirky characters join a committee that runs all the affairs of the world. Director Peter Sykes' surreal indie film remains a cult classic, but was also influential on later art cinema. Sure the film is disjointed and seems stitched together, and the opening murder-rebirth scene is never explained, but the black-and-white fable is worth seeing regardless. The highlight of the film includes a very hard-to-find soundtrack by Pink Floyd and the Crazy World of Arthur Brown. There's an extra CD included in the set that features Paul Jones singing "The Committee," "Bird" and "Here Comes the Flood."



## Glade Electronic Music Festival (MVD)



Produced by Adam Brown and Martin O'Leary of Digital Sneakers, *Glade* documents the performances and general shenanigans at the annual Glade Electronic Music Festival. This set features live sets by System 7, Tristan, Dreadzone, Squarepusher, Tayo, DJ Ans, Hallucinogen, and many others. Most performances are frenzied and driven by strobes and club-styled lights while

the cameras properly portray the spastic energy of dance music.

The film works most of the time and it not only showcases electronic and dance music, but also the sheds light on the array of wacko, weird, colorful and fun-loving characters that attend the festival. Interviews are interspersed with the performances and from the making of the festival to the live footage, this documentary covers all the aspects of one of the biggest electronic music festivals in the United Kingdom.

The Glade Electronic Festival is an outdoor event that has become one of the most anticipated underground dance festivals in Europe. The 2-disc DVD also includes a behind the stages bonus disc covering the stories and interviews of each of the seven stages at Glade, including Healing Area, Liquid Records, Nano Records, Sancho Panza, ID Spiral, Breaksday, and Little Big.