

Tom Petty (centre) and Heartbreakers: after Mudcrutch.

## Well Deep

★★★★

### Ten Years Of Big Dada Recordings

BIG DADA

London-based but wide-reaching hip hop label's 10 years of avant-party music.



Offering a home for wayward creative spirits operating in the more idiosyncratic corners of hip hop, Big

Dada fast built a reputation upon label owner Will Ashon's visionary signings; artists who pulled rap's blueprint into unique new shapes. The DVD's documentary makes a strong case for the imprint and its roster of auteurs, spinning a web from its Kennington headquarters to the various international scenes the label has touched and supported – Diplo's Rio-derived baile funk mutations, Spank Rock's raw-mouthed Baltimorean booty noise, New Yorker Mike Ladd's askance avant-rap, east Londoner Wiley's pioneering grime, and Roots Manuva's Streatham-born meld of rap and digital-dub. Of the music videos here, Manuva's hilarious clip for his sublime Witness (1 Hope) single matches Madness's classic promos for low-budget wit and invention, while Infinite Livez' Adventures Of The Lactating Man, as its title suggests, has to be seen to be believed.

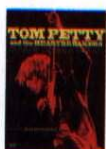
Stevie Chick

## Tom Petty And The Heartbreakers

★★★★

### Runnin' Down A Dream

Exhaustive *Anthology*-style dissection of Petty and the boys' oeuvre.



With impressive content and beautifully shot, this four-disc set lays claim to Petty's group's place in 20th century rock history. The main feature is directed by Peter Bogdanovich, himself once the *enfant terrible* of the film industry, and is detailed, warm and affectionate. The clips and live performances bolster the story, and the band's 30th Anniversary Concert in Gainesville in September 2006 is used as its focal point. It's a little heavy on rock cliché but pulls through with sincerity, and if you ever want to see what a Mudcrutch video looks like, look no further. Interviews



collaborators such as George Harrison, Stevie Nicks, Jeff Lynne and Johnny Depp. A four-hour documentary may not preach to anyone but the converted, but this is really quite sumptuous.

Daryl Easlea

## Fairport Convention

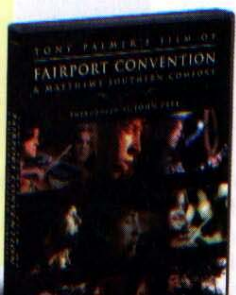
★★★★

### Maidstone 1970

NEPTUNE

Rare Fairport live film, with footage of Matthews' Southern Comfort too.

Seldom seen, Maidstone 1970 captures Fairport's *Full House* line-up (with Richard Thompson still aboard) in full flight at a concert on a sunny June day in a Kent public park. Then as now, there was little overtly flashy about Fairport live, the emphasis falling on solid folk rock playing, not on-stage theatrics. In vivid if slightly fuzzy colour, the band run through five songs from the period that saw them embrace rocked-up traditional British folk and they speed up



the jigs'n'reels to an almost frenzied climax in closer Jenny's Chickens & The Mason's Apron. Fairport's vocals are more adequate than inspiring, so if singing's your thing, check out the two country-tinged folk rockers by Matthews' Southern Comfort, whose extended near-opus Southern Comfort is the highlight of the whole disc. The DVD also has a bonus interview with director Tony Palmer that's about half as long as the feature itself, done especially for this reissue.

Richie Unterberger

## Across The Universe

★★★★

SONY PICTURES

Screen musical revolving on premise of *The Beatles* as the soundtrack to an era.

A young Scouse shipyard welder sails the Atlantic while buzzcut boys cross the Pacific to Vietnam; and what unfolds as the movie blossoms, then darkens and finally finds peace and love, is a stylised musical drama set in and about a conflated American High '60s where characters called Jude, Maxwell, Sadie, Jojo, Prudence etc break into the Fabs songbook to vent the inner feelings left unsaid by Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais's script. Beatles references, from apples and strawberries to girls coming through the bathroom window, subtext the show. An intricate but off-paced structure of garishly fun or thematically poignant

show-boating cameos from Bono, Eddie Izzard and Joe Cocker. More cherishable are the still moments when a lone character will find the heart of a song like *While My Guitar Gently Weeps*, proving the concept is sound even if the execution gave us just another warm-hearted teen musical.

Mat Snow

weaves the poet of today with the agitator of yesteryear, capturing the fascinating arc of Sinclair's life as a multi-faceted guardian of the arts.

Michael Hurtt

## Iron Maiden

★★★★

### Live After Death

OTT 1984 live show plus Part Two of band history. Mummified Eddie included!



The aptly named World Slavery tour, in support of Iron Maiden's fifth album *Powerslave*, was a 14-month, 322-gig marathon that made them the biggest metal band in the world but left them physically and mentally wrecked. During this tour, a four-night stand at LA's 15,000-capacity Long Beach Arena was recorded for the *Live After Death* album and concert film. The latter – on DVD for the first time – is spectacular. With a massive set designed on *Powerslave*'s Ancient Egypt-themed cover art, Maiden power through 13 songs of classic old-school heavy metal. Disc 2 has the second instalment of an on-going documentary and rare footage from two famous but very different gigs: 1985's inaugural Rock In Rio festival, where Maiden played to an audience of 300,000, and the ground-breaking tour of the former Eastern Bloc, where the band ended up jamming

## John Sinclair

★★★★

### 20 To Life: The Life And Times Of John Sinclair

WIENERWORLD

The life and times of a rock'n'roll revolutionary.



Cultural warrior John Sinclair has seemingly done it all, from managing the MC5 and founding the White Panther Party to being sentenced to a decade in prison for the possession of two joints, only to be freed after John and Yoko wrote a song about the whole ordeal and performed it at his now-legendary freedom rally. *20 To Life* got its title when filmmaker Steve Gebhardt went to Sinclair in 1991 with the idea of a documentary focusing on his life after his 1971 release. But Sinclair – who'd recently relocated to New Orleans to concentrate on his poetry with his band The Blues Scholars – wasn't interested in dwelling in the past. Nevertheless, 16 years on, to a