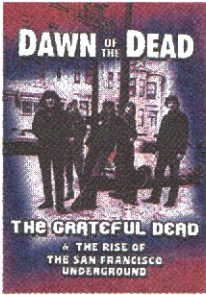


MUSIC



Dawn of the Dead

The Grateful Dead & the Rise of the San Francisco Underground (DVD)
 Enthralling and well-researched documentary chronicling the simultaneous rise of the San Francisco counterculture and the music that accompanied it. Focusing on the Grateful Dead, other key components include **Ken Kesey, Bill Graham, Jefferson Airplane**, the Acid Tests, and the overall cultural, musical and political conflagration of the mid to late 1960s. (Sexy Intellectual) ★★★★★



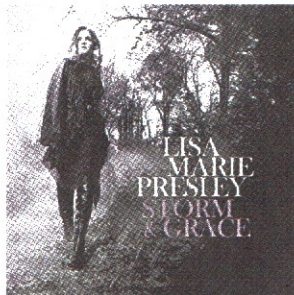
Slash

Apocalyptic Love
 To say former **Guns N' Roses** guitarist Slash has returned to his roots is an understatement, most blatantly reinforced by vocalist **Myles Kennedy's** spot-on **Axl Rose** impersonation. The resemblance of this album to 1987's zillion-selling *Appetite for Destruction* is uncanny, to the point of parody. Lyrical themes, musical passages, anything that wasn't nailed down has been recycled. Frightening. **DOWNLOAD THIS:** "One Last Thrill." (Universal) ★★★★★



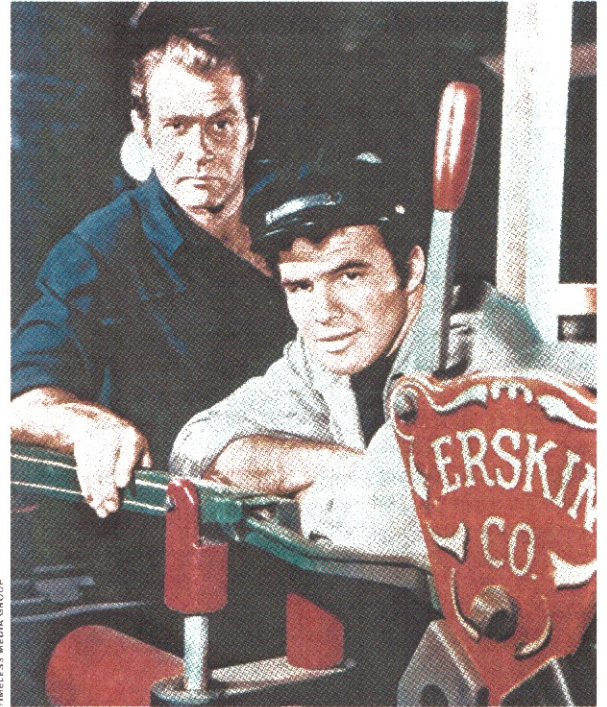
Roland Nipp

All We Beery
 The Richmond-based guitarist/multi-instrumentalist furthers his quest to make instrumental, guitar-based music both riveting and eminently listenable. References like **Jeff Beck** and **Brian May** are easy to spot, Nipp's preference being strong melodies, outstanding tone and dynamic accompaniment. First class all the way. **DOWNLOAD THIS:** "Underdog." (Independent) ★★★★★



Lisa Marie Presley

Storm & Grace
 Let's face it: Lisa Marie is never going to be taken seriously. Cursed from birth with celebrity, and no stranger to her own tabloid headlines, her attempt to make serious music is a fruitless endeavour. Employing traditional torch instrumentation does lend a yearning, shadowy sound to the album, but her world-weary vocals may be the only genuine thing here. **DOWNLOAD THIS:** "Close to the Edge." (Universal) ★★☆☆☆



TIMELESS MEDIA GROUP

Riverboat

Imagine a world where *Kolchak: The Night Stalker* walked the same ground as Bandit from *Smokey and the Bandit*. Well, it actually happened; in 1959, before they both became big stars, **Darren McGavin** and **Burt Reynolds** co-starred in this thrilling adventure series about the crew of an 1840s Mississippi paddle-wheeler called the Enterprise.

Like an Old West version of *Star Trek*, McGavin played the tough-as-nails captain of the riverboat (which he won in a poker game), with a crew that included Reynolds in his first starring role. As you'd expect, the crew became involved in all manner of adventure, both dramatic and comedic. After a reportedly heated disagreement with McGavin, Reynolds left near the end of the first season. He was replaced by **Noah Beery Jr.** (*The Rockford Files*), which wound up being a good move for both actors.

One of the thrills of watching old TV series such as this one is seeing the early work of many actors who went on to bigger and more-famous roles. For example, **Mary Tyler Moore, Buddy Ebsen, Elizabeth Montgomery** and **Eddie Albert** all make guest-starring appearances in *Riverboat*, as do film stars **Vincent Price** and **Charles Bronson**. The series is available in a complete-series six-DVD box set that includes all 44 episodes from the show's two seasons (at *Amazon.ca* and other online sources).

— Michael Roberds