Beats, Rhymes & Life by Michael Rappaport  
DVD 782.42 BEAT  
Michael Rappaport’s portrait of seminal hip-hop band A Tribe Called Quest, its joyous rise and subsequent death-by-a-thousand-cuts implosion is maybe the literal definition of “that which nourishes you also kills you.” Minute by minute tracing the evolution of the band’s sound, which is jazzier and more playful than the angrier vibe of contemporaries like NWA and Public Enemy, and then mercilessly deep-diving on just how the friendships that bound the founding members together started to fray, the doc shows just how much their contrasting personalities contributed to the layered, evergreen freshness of their approach, and also how they ultimately caused the band’s acrimonious dissolution.  
-Indiewire.com

Searching for Sugar Man by Malik Bendjelloul  
DVD 782.42 SEAR  
Rodriguez [was] a Detroit-based folk-soul singer-songwriter who couldn’t crack many radio playlists back in the 1970s, but inexplicably became a hero to anti-apartheid activists in South Africa — even though he’d never toured there. [Director Malik Bendjelloul] go looking for the truth, unearthing a fascinating, moving tale about pop mythology, the vicissitudes of the recording industry, and how a great tune endures.  
-Noel Murray at Vulture.com

The Punk Singer by Sini Anderson  
The Punk Singer DVD B HANNA, K.  
Riot grrrl leader Kathleen Hanna has led such an interesting life that it would be possible to make a film just about her as an activist, as a musician, or as someone whose career has been sidetracked by hard-to-classify health problems. Sini Anderson’s The Punk Singer tackles it all, showing the little-known health struggles behind a living icon who craves constant creation, while also peppering in some of the debate over whether Hanna’s marriage to Beastie Boy Adam Horowitz has undercut her feminism. Anderson also cuts frequently to fantastic footage of Bikini Kill, Le Tigre, and the Julie Ruin in action, making the case that however the audience feels about Hanna’s politics, her contributions to modern music have been undervalued.  
-Noel Murray at Vulture.com

The Fifth Beatle: The Brian Epstein Story  
by Tiwary, Robinson and Baker  
Graphic B EPSTEIN, B  
This comics biography recounts the bright and tragic story of the Beatles’ first official manager from his first encounter with the band in 1961 to his death six years later. Andrew Robinson’s painterly artwork drives home the beauty of his story and its darkness too, while Kyle Baker provides a joyously cartoony interlude for the Beatles’ adventures in the Philippines. Winner and nominee of several comics and LGBTQ-related awards.  
- Patrick at Southwest
David Bowie: A Life by Dylan Jones

Bowie, D.

Drawn from over 180 interviews with friends, rivals, lovers, and collaborators, some of whom have never before spoken about their relationship with Bowie, this oral history weaves a hypnotic spell as it unfolds the story of a remarkable rise to stardom and an unparalleled artistic path. [...] By turns insightful and deliciously gossipy, David Bowie is as intimate a portrait as may ever be drawn.

- from the publisher

Thelonious Monk: The Life and Times of an American Original by Robin D.G. Kelley

Monk, T.

Thelonious Monk is the critically acclaimed, gripping saga of an artist’s struggle to “make it” without compromising his musical vision. It is a story that, like its subject, reflects the tidal ebbs and flows of American history in the twentieth century. [...] His angular melodies and dissonant harmonies shook the jazz world to its foundations, ushering in the birth of “bebop” and establishing Monk as one of America’s greatest com-posers. Elegantly written and rich with humor and pathos[,]

- from the publisher

Johnny Cash: The Life by Robert Hilburn

Cash, J.

In this, the definitive biography of an American legend, Robert Hilburn conveys the unvarnished truth about a musical superstar. Johnny Cash’s extraordinary career stretched from his days at Sun Records with Elvis Presley and Jerry Lee Lewis to the remarkable creative last hurrah, at age 69, that resulted in the brave, moving “Hurt” video.

- from the publisher

What Happened Miss Simone? by Alan Light

Simone, N.

Drawn from a trove of rare archival footage, audio recordings and interviews (including Simone’s remarkable private diaries), this nuanced examination of Nina Simone’s life highlights her musical inventiveness and unwavering quest for equality, while laying bare the personal demons that plagued her from the time of her Jim Crow childhood in North Carolina to her self-imposed exile in Liberia and Paris later in life.

- from the publisher

Words Without Music by Philip Glass

Glass, P

From his childhood in Baltimore to his student days in Chicago and at Juilliard, to his first journey to Paris and a life-changing trip to India, Glass movingly recalls his early mentors, while reconstructing the places that helped shape his creative consciousness. Whether describing working as an unlicensed plumber in gritty 1970s New York or composing Satyagraha, Glass breaks across genres and re-creates, here in words, the thrill that results from artistic creation.

- from the publisher

Mo’ Meta Blues by Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson

Thompson, B

Mo’ Meta Blues is a punch-drunk memoir in which Everyone’s Favorite Questlove tells his own story while tackling some of the lates, the greats, the fakes, the philosophers, the heavyweights, and the true origins of the music world. He digs deep into the album cuts of his life and unearths some pivotal moments in black art, hip hop, and pop culture.

- from the publisher

Girl in a Band by Kim Gordon

Gordon, K.

Gordon takes us back to the lost New York of the 1980s and ’90s that gave rise to Sonic Youth, and the Alternative revolution in popular music. The band helped build a vocabulary of music—paving the way for Nirvana, Hole, Smashing Pumpkins and many other acts. But at its core, Girl in a Band examines the route from girl to woman in uncharted territory, music, art career, what partnership means—and what happens when that identity dissolves.

- from the publisher

The Autobiography of Gucci Mane by Gucci Mane

Mane, B

In his extraordinary autobiography, the legend takes us to his roots in Alabama, the streets of East Atlanta, the trap house, and the studio where he found his voice as a peerless rapper. He reflects on his inimitable career and in the process confronts his dark past—years behind bars, the murder charge, drug addiction, career highs and lows—the making of a trap god. It is one of the greatest comeback stories in the history of music.

- from the publisher

Queen of Bebop: The Musical Lives of Sarah Vaughan by Elaine M. Hayes

Vaughan, S.

Sarah Vaughan, a pivotal figure in the formation of bebop, influenced a broad array of singers who followed in her wake, yet the breadth and depth of her impact—not just as an artist, but also as an African-American woman—remains overlooked. [...] This absorbing and sensitive treatment of a singular personality updates and corrects the historical record on Vaughan and elevates her status as a jazz great.

- from the publisher