**DESCENDENTS**

*Filmage: The Story of Descendents/ALL*

This doc shows how the unlikely band of punk-rock nerds, fueled by gallons of coffee and adolescent angst, welded hardcore volume to drummer/mastermind Bill Stevenson’s SoCal hooks, pioneering pop-punk 15-plus years before it went mainstream. Loaded with interviews, archival photos and footage, it also examines the offshoot project ALL, and reveals how Stevenson and the bands trumped long odds. – *Dennis Pernu*

---

**RIHANNON GIDDENS**

*Tomorrow Is My Turn*

With supermodel looks and charisma to spare, it was inevitable that Giddens would become more than just the clawhammer banjo player in the Carolina Chocolate Drops. Thankfully, she didn’t abandon roots styles on her solo debut. Colin Linden supplies distorted lead on Sister Rosetta Tharpe’s “Up Above My Head” and tasty slide on a Dixie-esque treatment of Patsy Cline’s “She’s Got You.” – *DF*

---

**THE DILLARDS**

*Back Porch: Bluegrass!!!Live!!!Almost!!!Pickin’ And Fiddlin’*

When the Dillards’ first three albums were released (1963 to ’65), they were the most visible bluegrass group, thanks to their alter egos, the Darlings, on “The Andy Griffith Show.” Doug Dillard’s banjo, Dean Webb’s mandolin, and the group’s close harmonies got driving support from Rodney Dillard’s rhythm guitar. Their third album added 19-year-old fiddler Byron Berline on a stellar all-instrumental set. – *DF*

---

**PUNCH BROTHERS**

*The Phosphorescent Blues*

Riding the bluegrass revival crest, this quartet is far more than a Bill Monroe homage act. Part chamber-music escapees, part rockers, they could be labeled prog bluegrass. Blending virtuosity with subversive humor this adventurous album kicks off with the 10-minute-long “Familiarity.” – *MD*

---

**ULI JON ROTH**

*Scorpions Revisited*

The godfather of neo-classical metal returns to his old band to revisit past glories, offering a stimulating, double-disc re-imagining classic old-school Scorpions. Masterful guitar playing, great songs, a killer band, and vocalist Nathan James make this release highly recommended. – *OJ*

---

**THE WORD**

*Soul Food*

Fourteen years later, The Word returns with 12 ditties featuring the talents of John Medeski, Robert Randolph, and Luther Dickinson. This rich musical stew is an earthy blend of gospel tinged Southern-cooked rock. Randolph’s pedal steel and Medeski’s organ intertwine harmoniously, as Dickinson’s guitar punches and soars among the best in the jam-band tradition. – *OJ*

---

**ELIZA NEALS**

*Breaking and Entering*

Big plus marks to Detroit blues singer Neal who loads the deck with some of that musically rich town’s finest guitar players, including strongman Howard Glaser, who co-wrote several of these tight, sassy tunes with Neal. You’ll love Glaser’s Dobro on “Detroit Drive,” their bucolic ode to the joys of the Motor City. – *RA*

---

**ELIZA NEALS**

*Primrose Green*

Walker blends pastoral acoustic fingerpicking, British folk, trippy jams, and a self-serving wink to David Crosby and Pentangle. He impresses the millennials by successfully excavating obscure strummy psychedelic acoustic acts of the ’60s, awarding him well-earned hipster cred. Combined with impassioned NYC folk scene vocals, Walker’s got talent and soul in those fingers. – *OJ*