Subject: Down at the vid store
Posted by lon on Mon, 10 Jan 2005 06:58:27 GMT
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I don't watch MTV anymore but I did see a music video whichwas picked up by the local video store. It was a version of "In The Mood" by The Brian Setzer Orchestra.I stopped in my tracks to watch the thing with my neck bent out of shape to look at the store monitors. BSO is prob'ly my favorite band of all time next to Ted Heathin the Golden Age period. (British readers will understand this reference-- maybe .) The video reminded me of an old tv show called The Lively Setwhich featured acts of the early 60's in the same sort of Southern California hot cars and fast women-- or fast womenand hot cars video as was put together for BSO. The Lively Set was MTV before it's day: Oscar Petersen playing at a tiki bar in Hawaii, Mel Torme doing Don't Get Around Much Anymore from behind bars-- I wonder of the kinescopes of that are around anyplace? I've seen BSO live and it is a great show. And a greattest of speaks to play some big band music fronted by a lead guitarist. This is the unique thing that Setzer did.All the cds have that big power sound and the originalslike "Switchblade 327" and "Rumble In Brighton" are everybit as good as the standards the band plays. Currently Setzer has returned to a smaller format anddoing pretty much a retro rock thing in the "Drive LikeLightening, Crash Like Thunder" vein. But the big band, the classic hot rods and the jitterbugsgave a hint of what the retro swing fad could have been. For the rest of the time, there's Low Rider magazine at the supermarket.

Subject: Re: Down at the vid store
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 10 Jan 2005 12:08:13 GMT
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Oh, now that's cool. I hadn't heard of it before, so I'll have to check it out. You're talking about Glenn Miller's "In the Mood," right? Setzer does some really cool retro sounds, and I'll bet he does a great job with that song.

Subject: Re: Down at the vid store-- Gettin' In The Mood
Posted by lon on Mon, 10 Jan 2005 20:48:54 GMT
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Yes Wayne, the title they actually use for this is called"Gettin In The Mood" it includes a 'rap' verse done byone of the band members and is an extended track. I have a problem myself with these pushing 40 and olderfolk trying to fein youth but I excuse it in Setzer's casebecause the band cooks so hard. Can't say the same about some piece of dreck I sawwith David Bowie and Mick Jagger. I saw the two of them insome video clip (once again at the store) and I toldthe clerk on the way out it made me want to puke. Theyoung clerk said, after looking around not to be overheard,"Me too." BSO does a number of covers including the old Ernie Fordfavorite "This Old

House" and the first cd released hadsome Al Jolson on it. But the originals and production byPhil Ramone are all first rate. Not long ago, I also got a chance to see LaVay Smithand the Red Hot Skillet Lickers live at a local performancetheatre (The Meyer which I've mentioned here before.) It's too bad that the revival of this music only hasa niche audience. While I was out on the net looking for video clips, I saw a piece on Setzer interviewed inwhich he says what he does with the band is a Kustom Lifestylelike the hot rods used in his videos: combining a stock formwith a new and revved up presentation. I was glad I saw thatbecause I wondered how the unique combination of leadguitar and singer fronting a big band could be expressed. Apparently the original concept came about as a happenstanceand then Phil Ramone wrote and arranged the Guitar Slingeralbum. I go into all this detail because the big sound of the music hold up over time. Some (or most of) the swing bandsof the post-Gap ad retro fad have faded from view. Somehave gone into film scores like The Bill Elliot SwingOrchestra. Others play clubs like Lavay Smith. But here's the knockout: The Kit McClure Band is anall-girl ensemble that plays the songbook of the mixedrace all girl band of the forties called The InternationalSweethearts of Rhythm. This was the only female band that touredwith the USO during World War II. There was a commemorative for the Sweethearts on the NPR program Riverwalk Jazz. Kit Mclure and Redhot records is here:http://www.redhotrecords.com/
more about BSO

Subject: Re: Down at the vid store-- Gettin' In The Mood
Posted by Wayne Parham on Tue, 11 Jan 2005 11:59:49 GMT
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I think Setzer is really innovative. I don't listen to everything he does, but his sound intrigues and impresses me. It's kind of like the way I feel about Danny Elfman. I don't buy every soundtrack he does, but I am impressed with every soundtrack he does.Thanks for the Brian Setzer link!
Other Setzer mentions
