

May-June 2016

Video Librarian

VOL. 31 ■ THE VIDEO REVIEW MAGAZINE FOR LIBRARIES ■ NO. 3



IN THIS ISSUE

The Witch | Night Will Fall | Welcome to Leith | Bikes Vs. Cars | Immigration Battle | Embrace of the Serpent | The Black Panthers

scene & heard

**BAKER & TAYLOR'S SPECIALIZED A/V TEAM OFFERS
ALL THE PRODUCTS, SERVICES AND EXPERTISE TO
FULFILL YOUR LIBRARY PATRONS' NEEDS.**

*Learn more about Baker & Taylor's
Scene & Heard team:*

ELITE

Helpful personnel focused exclusively on A/V products and customized services to meet continued patron demand

PROFICIENT

Qualified entertainment content buyers ensure frontlist and backlist titles are available and delivered on time

DEVOTED

Nationwide team of A/V processing staff ready to prepare your movie and music products to your shelf-ready specifications

SKILLED

Supportive Sales Representatives with an average of 15 years industry experience

KNOWLEDGEABLE

Full-time staff of A/V catalogers, backed by their MLS degree and more than 43 years of media cataloging expertise

Video Librarian

Publisher/Editor: Randy Pitman
Associate Editor: Jazza Williams-Wood
Copy Editor: Kathleen L. Florio
Editorial Assistant: Christopher Pitman
Graphic Designer: Carol Kaufman
Marketing Director: Anne Williams

Contributing Writers

Kathleen C. Fennessy, *Reviewer*,
Amazon.com
Susan Granger, *SSG Syndicate*
Donald Liebensohn, *Reviewer*,
Entertainment Weekly, Amazon.com
Maureen Puffer-Rothenberg, *Librarian*,
Valdosta State University, GA
Stephen Rees, *Librarian, formerly with*
Bucks Co. Free Library, Levittown, PA
Frank Swietek, *Associate Professor*
of History, University of Dallas, TX

Additional Contributors:

Sean Axmaker
 Carson Block
 Charles Cassady
 Ted Fry
 Phil Hall
 Tom Keogh
 Lisa Martincik
 Phil Morehart
 Michael Sandlin

Video Librarian (ISSN: 0887-6851) is published bi-monthly by *Video Librarian*, 3435 NE Nine Boulder Dr., Poulsbo, WA 98370. Subscriptions: \$64 for one year in the United States; \$69 (US) in Canada (includes GST); \$86 elsewhere. Address all correspondence to *Video Librarian*, 3435 NE Nine Boulder Dr., Poulsbo, WA 98370. Periodicals Postage Paid at Poulsbo, WA and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *Video Librarian*, 3435 NE Nine Boulder Dr., Poulsbo, WA 98370. Copyright © 2016 by Randy Pitman. All rights reserved.

Telephone/Fax/E-mail
Subscriptions: (800) 692-2270
Editorial: (360) 626-1259
Advertising: (800) 265-7965
Fax: (360) 626-1260
E-mail: vidlib@videolibrarian.com
Web: www.videolibrarian.com

The Witch ★★½
Lionsgate, 94 min., R,
DVD: \$19.98, Blu-ray:
\$24.99, May 17

Writer-director Robert Eggers's debut feature is a study in religious paranoia that creates a deepening mood of unease and dread. *The Witch* begins at a Puritan plantation in 17th-century New England, where exiled farmer William (Ralph Ineson) leads his family—wife Katherine (Kate Dickie), elder daughter Thomasin (Anya Taylor-Joy), adolescent son Caleb (Harvey Scrimshaw), and twin urchins Jonas (Lucas Dawson) and Mercy (Ellie Grainger)—out into the wilderness to build an isolated homestead on the edge of a dark, ominous forest. Soon, Katherine gives birth to another son, Samuel. Evil lurking in the forest strikes when Samuel is snatched away (possibly for a satanic ritual) while in Thomasin's care—a loss that throws Katherine into a paroxysm of grief and recrimination against Thomasin. Matters deteriorate further when Mercy and Jonas, who have developed an odd attachment to the family's sinisterly rambunctious goat, come to believe that their sister is a witch. The pious Caleb, meanwhile, struggles to meet his father's high expectations while



resisting the temptations of the flesh. As the family members descend ever further into a mixture of fear, indignation, and emotional paralysis, the question of whether it's the work of Satan or of mindless hysteria comes to the fore. Boasting a remarkable physical recreation of the period—an era that also witnessed the notorious Salem witch trials—this creepily effective film is highly recommended. (F. Swietek)

Viewers wanting to understand more about the 17th-century mindset portrayed in *The Witch* might want to read Stacy Schiff's 2015 nonfiction book *The Witches: Salem 1692* (out in paperback in September), an account of the Salem witch trials that has a dauntingly huge cast of real-life characters (and chronological shifts that only add to the confusion). But it cogently explains why the Puritans—who saw themselves, in the words of renowned preacher Jonathan Edwards, as “sinners in the hands of an angry God”—could believe that devils and witches were a form of punishment sent down by the Almighty.

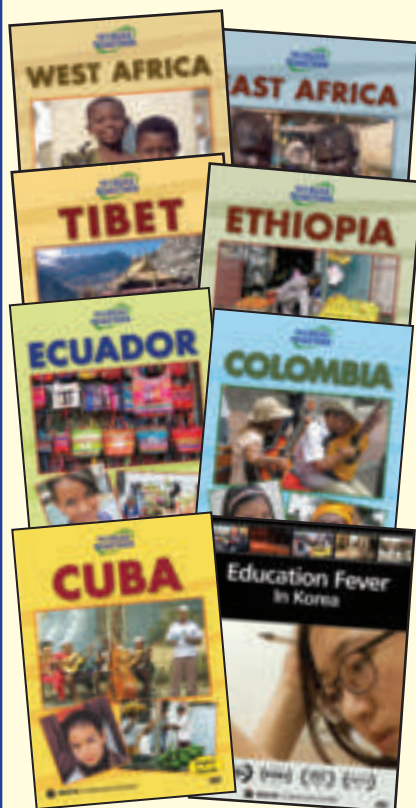


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Video Newsbriefs	4	Beauty & Fashion	68
Books Into Movies	6	Food & Spirits	68
Mixed Media	8	House & Garden	69
Video Movies	16	Pets	69
TV on Video	50	Business & Economics	69
Key to Star Ratings	57	Sports, Games & Recreation	70
Video Reviews	57	The Arts	70
Children's	57	History & Current Events	73
Psychology & Self-Help	58	Travel & Geography	74
Religion & Philosophy	60	Biography	75
Social & Political Issues	61	Series Update	76
Teen Issues	64	Japanese Anime	77
Education	64	Music/Dance	79
Law & Crime	66	Distributor Addresses	82
Nature, Math & Science	66	Title Index	84
Health & Fitness	67	Advertiser Directory	84
Relationships & Sexuality	68	Final Frame	86



Inspire Curious Minds



Education Fever in Korea

V1912 978-1-604-80163-7 \$79.00

Worlds Together Series

Worlds Together Cuba, Ecuador and Colombia in **Spanish and English** celebrate culture, history, food, geography and people. Closed-captioned. Free Teacher's Guide. 25 min. Ages 10+.

DVD \$29.95 each

V3212 Colombia 978-1-60480-156-9

V3213 Cuba 978-1-60480-157-6

V3214 Ecuador 978-1-60480-158-3

V3215 Tibet 978-1-60480-108-8

V3202 Ethiopia 978-1-60480-106-4

V3203 East Africa 978-1-60480-107-1

V3201 W. Africa 978-1-60480-105-7

WorldCultureMedia.com

1-800-765-5885

Master-Comm.com

sales@master-comm.com



MASTER COMMUNICATIONS®

"War & Peace" Miniseries Coming May 10 from Anchor Bay Entertainment

The critically acclaimed eight-episode miniseries *War & Peace* (DVD: \$39.99; Blu-ray: \$49.99) is slated for release on May 10 from Anchor Bay Entertainment. Starring Paul Dano, Lily James, James Norton, Gillian Anderson, and Brian Cox, this adaptation of the classic novel by Leo Tolstoy opens in 1805, as viewers first meet Pierre (Dano), Natasha (James), and Andrei (Norton), members of St Petersburg's glittering elite who are fired-up with youthful ambition to find meaning in their lives. Kindhearted but awkward Pierre, the illegitimate son of Russia's richest man, wants to change the world for the better. Handsome and gallant Andrei, frustrated with the superficiality of his life, seeks a purpose, while the beautiful and spirited Natasha is searching for true love. At the same time, Napoleon's army edges ever closer to Russia's borders. As everything they thought they knew is questioned, Pierre, Andrei, and Natasha will find themselves in a time when Russian society is about to change forever. Extras include behind-the-scenes featurettes.

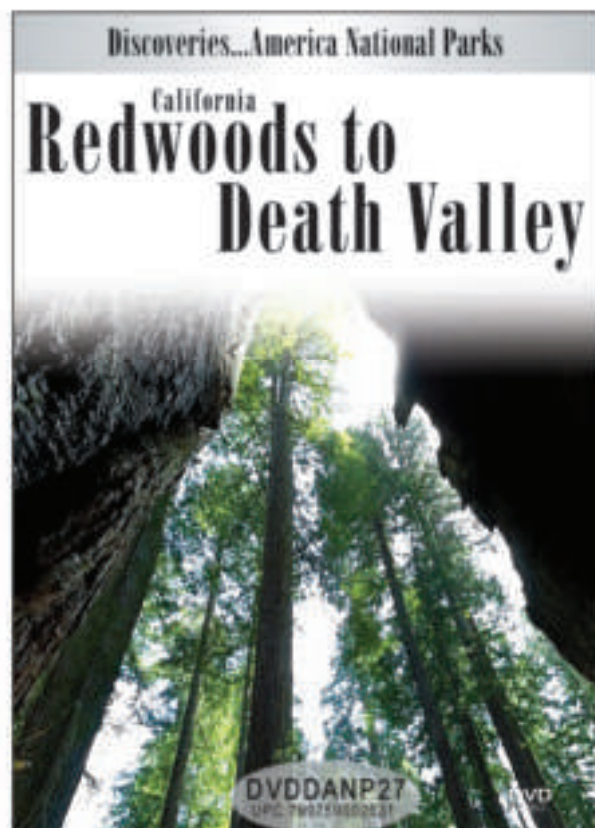


conman, and convict to becoming a beloved elder statesman of jazz. "When we are in the process of acquiring films, we specifically look for titles that will resonate in the educational community," said BOND/360 COO Elizabeth Sheldon. In addition, BOND/Educator's collection includes titles such as *Yarn*, *Deep Web*, *Documented*, *Sign Painters*, *Advanced Style* and *Tomorrow We Disappear*. All titles are available with public performance rights and digital site licensing options.

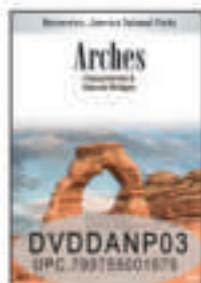
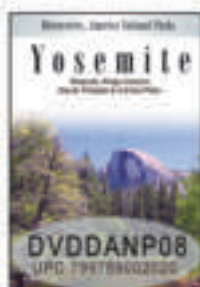
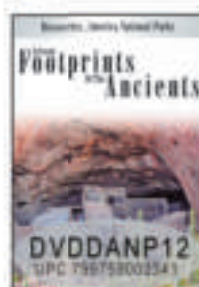
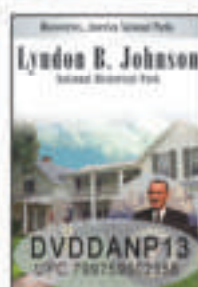
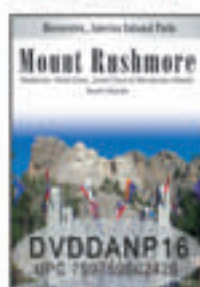
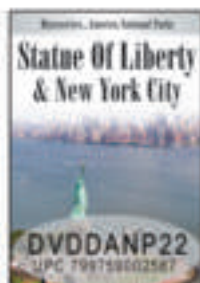
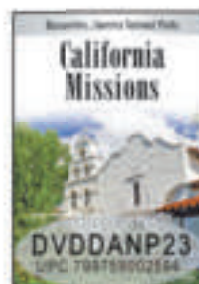
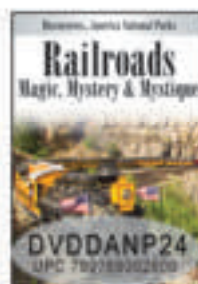
Criterion June Slate Includes "Here Comes Mr. Jordan" and "Fantastic Planet"

The Criterion Collection's June slate kicks off June 7 with Italian filmmaker Michelangelo Antonioni's devastating 1955 tale of female friendship *Le amiche* (*The Girlfriends*) (DVD: \$29.95, Blu-ray: \$39.95), a fragmentary depiction of modern bourgeois life, conveyed from the perspective of five Turinese women. Coming June 14 is Jean Renoir's violent 1931 love triangle story *La chienne* (DVD: 2 discs, \$29.95; Blu-ray: \$39.95), starring Michel Simon as an unhappily married cashier and painter who becomes so smitten with a prostitute that he refuses to see that she and her pimp are taking advantage of him. Also arriving June 14 is Alexander Hall's 1941 comedy *Here Comes Mr. Jordan* (DVD: \$29.95, Blu-ray: \$39.95), starring Robert Montgomery as a boxer and amateur aviator whose plane crashes in a freak accident, after which he is told by a wry angel in Heaven (Claude Rains) that he can return to Earth by entering the body of a corrupt banker. Slated for June 21 is René Laloux's 1973 animated French cult classic *Fantastic Planet* (DVD: \$29.95, Blu-ray: \$39.95), a visually inventive sci-fi tale set on a distant planet where enslaved humans are the playthings of giant blue natives. Coming on June 28 is Olivier Assayas's 2014 film *Clouds of Sils Maria* (DVD: 2 discs, \$29.95; Blu-ray: \$39.95), starring Juliette Binoche as a stage and screen icon being courted for a new production of the play that made her famous—except here she must assume the role of an older woman. Also arriving June 28 is one of Stanley Kubrick's greatest films: the still shocking and hilarious 1964 masterpiece *Dr. Strangelove, or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* (DVD: 2 discs, \$29.95; Blu-ray: \$39.95), starring Peter Sellers in a triple-role *tour de force*.

Discoveries...America National Parks



Celebrate the **centennial** of the
National Park Service
 with videos from hundreds of National Park sites



Other series brought to you by Bennett-Watt HD Productions, Inc.
261 titles and growing!

New
National Park
 titles released
 monthly

MSRP \$24.95

50-65 min.

Discoveries:
 America States x 51
 America Special Edition x 18
 America Music x 8
 International x 34

Cooking:
 Sweet Addition x 8
 Dare To Cook x 18

Fly Fishing:
 How to Fly Fish x 11
 Fly Fishing Adventure x 22
 Hooked on Fly Tying x 27
 New Hooked On Fly Tying x 39



DVD / Blu-ray / Digital Download
 available from Midwest Tape or directly from Bennett-Watt HD Productions

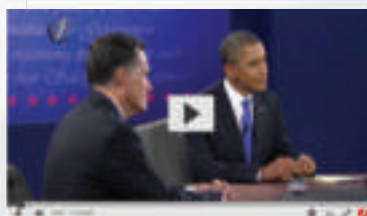
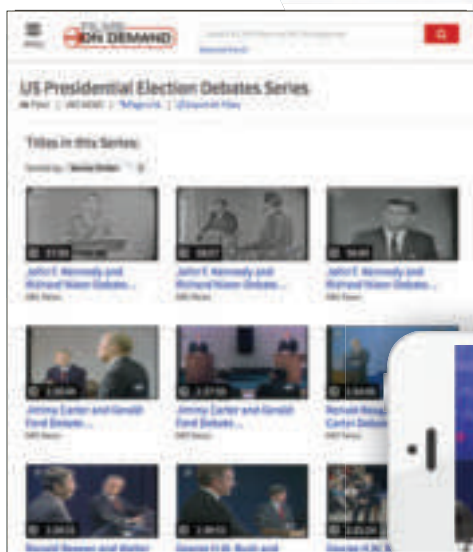


Bennett-Watt HD Productions, Inc. • Ph: 800-327-2893 • Ph: 425-392-3935 • Info@Bennett-Watt.com • www.Bennett-Watt.com



NEW! U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION DEBATES SERIES

The Full Collection of All Televised U.S. Presidential Debates!



The U.S. Presidential Election Debates series together with the Ronald Reagan–John Anderson debate of 1980 offer a fascinating look at every televised United States presidential election debate in history. Watch each debate in full and explore how they have changed over the years. Compare significant points in the debates to the eventual outcomes of the elections. Have students identify the issues the candidates address and rank the candidates by how effective they were at conveying their points.

See why 13 million users love us!

FREE Trial: www.Infobase.com/TrialAD16



Facts On File | Chelsea House | Bloom's | Ferguson's | The World Almanac | Films Media Group | Learn360

(800) 322-8755 • OnlineSales@Infobase.com

Books Into Movies

The following films based on books are slated to open during May and June. Movie release dates are subject to change.

Coming in May

Love & Friendship (May 13) is based on the epistolary novel *Lady Susan* by Jane Austen, first published in 1871. Directed by Whit Stillman, the period drama stars Kate Beckinsale, Chloë Sevigny, Xavier Samuel, and Stephen Fry.



Sunset Song (May 13) is based on Lewis Grassic Gibbon's 1932 novel. Directed by Terence Davies, this Scotland-set period piece stars Agyness Deyn, Peter Mullan, and Kevin Guthrie.

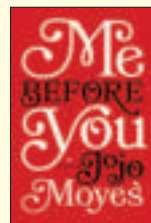


Alice Through the Looking Glass (May 27) is based on Lewis Carroll's 1871 novel *Through the Looking-Glass, and What Alice Found There*. Director Tim Burton's sequel to his 2010 *Alice in Wonderland* features returning stars Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter, and Mia Wasikowska.



Coming in June

Me Before You (June 3) is based on British journalist and romance novelist Jojo Moyes's 2012 novel. Directed by Thea Sharrock, the film stars Emilia Clarke, Sam Claflin, and Charles Dance.



Genius (June 10) is based on the National Book Award-winning 1978 biography *Max Perkins: Editor of Genius* by A. Scott Berg. Directed by Michael Grandage, the film stars Nicole Kidman, Dominic West, Laura Linney, Jude Law, and Colin Firth as Perkins.



THE YEAR'S TOP CHILDREN'S TITLES

NOW ON VIDEO!

Drum Dream Girl

A young girl fulfills her dreams in this video treatment of the acclaimed Pura Belpré Award winner.

ISBN 9781520013213 \$38.99

Last Stop on Market Street

Join young CJ on a memorable ride as the 2016 Newbery winner comes to life in this dynamic video!

ISBN 9781520011356 \$38.99

Funny Bones

Discover the little-known story of Mexican artist Jose Guadalupe Posada in this 2016 Sibert winner.

ISBN 9781520011424 \$38.99



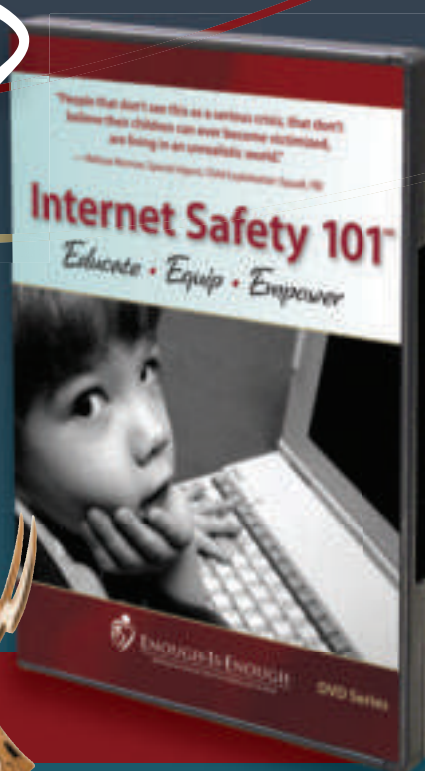
Do You Know What Your Kids Are Doing ONLINE?

Internet Safety 101 is a widely acclaimed **Emmy-winning** four-part series that paints a comprehensive picture of the dangers children encounter online. Led by renowned Internet safety expert Donna Rice Hughes, *Internet Safety 101* will empower you with the safety information, skills, and confidence you need to effectively protect children in the virtual world.

ISBN: 857063005981 \$24.99

ISBN: (Spanish) 857063005998 \$24.99

A bonus second disc contains a comprehensive 245-page PDF workbook curriculum, which complements and expands upon the *Internet Safety 101* DVD.



ORDER THIS TITLE TODAY

MIDWEST TAPE
LIBRARIANS MEDIA SOURCE

hoopla

dreamscapeab.com

DREAMSCAPE

Mixed Media features new release information on upcoming video games and TV series on DVD/Blu-ray, as well as notable older titles that are re-priced or new to DVD/Blu-ray.

Video Games

Note: Entertainment Software Ratings Board (ESRB) ratings for video games are: E (Everyone), E10+ (Everyone 10+), T (Teen), M (Mature), and RP (Rating Pending). Some titles are not rated until just prior to release date.

Available Now

Ratchet & Clank (Insomniac, PS4: \$39.99, Rated: E10+). Ratchet and Clank are back in this third-person action-platform game based on the new movie (which is inspired by the original 2002 PS2 game) that finds the beloved duo on a quest that features outrageous weapons and extreme planet hopping.



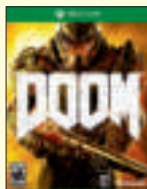
Star Fox Zero (Nintendo, WiiU: \$59.99, Rated: E10+). In this new adventure in the classic space shooter franchise, an evil force is marching across the universe and only the Star Fox team—Fox, Falco, Peppy, and Slippy—can stop it.

May 1—May 7

Battleborn (2K, PS4/XOne: \$59.99, Rated: T). With a mind-boggling number of weapons and characters—from cyborg hawkmen to samurai vampires to mini-gun wielding man-mountains—this first-person multiplayer shooter features 25 playable heroes tasked with protecting the universe's very last star from a mysterious evil.

May 8—May 14

DOOM (Bethesda, PS4/XOne: \$59.99, Rated: M). In this latest update to the classic first-person shooter, the Union Aerospace Corporation's massive research facility on Mars is overwhelmed by fierce and powerful demons, and only a lone Marine can stop them.



Uncharted 4: A Thief's End (Sony, PS4: \$59.99, Rated: T). Several years after his

last outing, retired fortune hunter Nathan Drake is forced back into the world of thieves in this highly-anticipated fourth entry in the blockbuster third-person action-adventure series.

May 15—May 21

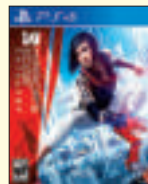
Homefront: The Revolution (Deep Silver, PS4/XOne: \$59.99, Rated: M). Set after the events in the original *Homefront*, this first-person shooter has players leading the resistance movement in tactical guerrilla warfare against a superior North Korean military force that has occupied the United States for four years.



Valkyria Chronicles Remastered (Sega, PS4: \$29.99, Rated: T). Remastered for the PS4, this third-person strategy role-playing game finds Welkin and his fellow soldiers of the Federation's Squad 7 engaging in a series of epic battles set on a fictitious continent that is reminiscent of 1930s Europe.

May 22—May 28

Mirror's Edge Catalyst (EA, PS4/XOne: \$59.99, Rated: T). In this parkour-based first-person adventure game sequel, players step into the role of Faith, a daring free runner, as she fights for freedom in the elegant, high-tech city of Glass.



Overwatch (Blizzard, PS4/XOne: \$59.99, Rated: T). Players become various heroes who engage enemies in iconic locations around the globe in this team-based first-person shooter from the creators of *Warcraft*, *StarCraft*, and *Diablo*.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutants in Manhattan (Activision, PS3/PS4/X360/XOne: \$39.99-\$49.99, Rated: T). The pizza-loving turtles are back in this cartoon third-person action-adventure game in which our heroes must save Manhattan, battling through the sewers, subways, and streets to take down Shredder and Krang's evil organization.

May 29—June 4

One Piece: Burning Blood (Bandai Namco, PS4/XOne: \$59.99, Rated: T).

Players set sail with Monkey D. Luffy and the Straw Hat Crew in this third-person fighting game that combines manga, anime, and action for an ultimate battle royale.

June 5—June 11

Assetto Corsa (505 Games, PS4/XOne: \$59.99, Rated: E). This racing simulation game features over 100 cars and 20-plus tracks with a focus on pure physics realism for meticulous car handling.



MXGP2: The Official Motocross Videogame (Milestone, PS4/XOne: \$59.99, Rated: E). This motocross racing simulation game features every track and rider from the 2015 Official MXGP Championship, including Glen Helen and the new American Tracks, with unprecedented levels of customization.

Odin Sphere Leifthrasir (Atlus, PS3/PS4: \$49.99-\$59.99, Rated: T). Told in five tales from the perspectives of different protagonists, this 2D third-person action role-playing game with Norse mythology roots is a remake of the classic 2007 PS2 game.

Paragon (Epic, PS4: \$59.99, Rated: T). Players choose from a roster of unique heroes in this third-person team-based MOBA (multiplayer online battle arena) game from the creators of *Unreal Tournament* and *Gears of War*.

June 19—June 25

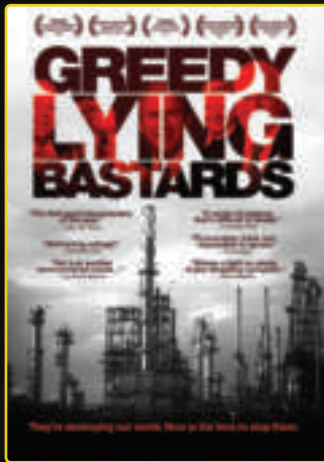
Mario & Sonic at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games (Nintendo, WiiU: \$59.99, Rated: E10+). In this third-person sports-action game, players compete with Mario, Sonic, and other favorite characters in Rio de Janeiro—host of the 2016 Olympic Games—in events including soccer and beach volleyball.

No Man's Sky (Hello Games, PS4: \$59.99, Rated: RP). This highly-anticipated third-person adventure game lets players explore an infinite universe, where they will discover unique planets and lifeforms, and make choices whether to fight, trade, or explore—decisions that will have consequences.



LEARN ABOUT OUR WORLD

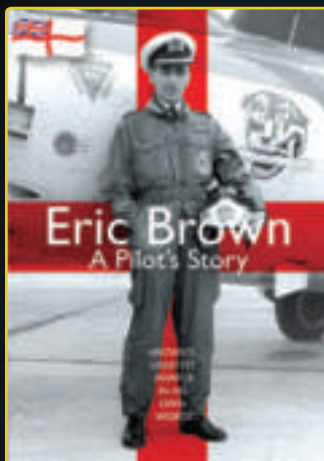
Philosophy, Politics, Social Issues, Military, Love and more!



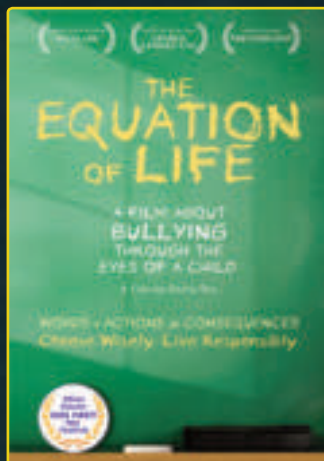
GREEDY LYING BASTARDS
investigates the reason behind stalled efforts to tackle climate change despite consensus in the scientific community that it's a reality.

UPC: 826262010393 SRP: \$19.95

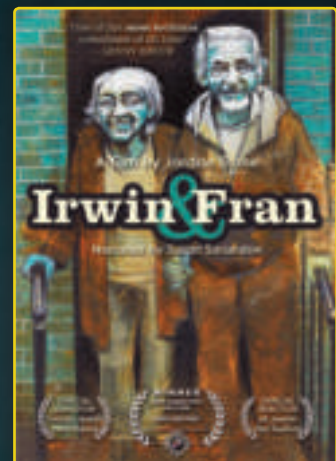
"RECOMMENDED"
—VIDEO LIBRARIAN



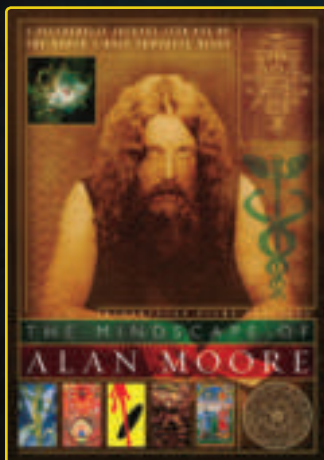
New feature documentary about Britain's greatest aviator.
UPC: 826262013097 SRP: \$14.95



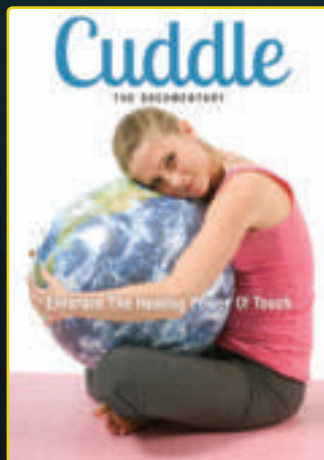
"Recommended"
—Video Librarian
UPC: 826262011994 SRP: \$16.95



Narrated by Susan Sarandon. Originally broadcast on WNET-NY
UPC: 826262012991 SRP: \$24.95



A portrait of the artist / author / philosopher as a contemporary shaman
2 DISCS
UPC: 826262004897 SRP: \$29.95



The business, the therapy, the controversy.
UPC: 826262013295 SRP: \$14.95



"The ultimate sex & relationship guide"
—Cosmopolitan
5 DISCS
UPC: 826262007997 SRP: \$49.95

The Technomancer (Focus, PS4/XOne: \$59.99, Rated: RP). Set on Mars during the War of Water, this third-person sci-fi role-playing game offers action-oriented combat with skill trees, crafting (equipment, weapons, and armor), and the recruiting of important allies.



Tokyo Mirage Sessions #FE (Atlus, WiiU: \$59.99, Rated: T). In this third-person role-playing game from acclaimed developer Atlus, a sinister force from another dimension has invaded modern-day Tokyo, resulting in a fantastic barrage of style, fashion, music, and, of course, danger.

June 26–July 2

7 Days to Die (Telltale, PS4: \$29.99, Rated: RP). Set in a brutally unforgiving post-apocalyptic world overrun by the undead, this open-world survival-horror first-person shooter combines elements from tower defense and role-playing games.

LEGO Star Wars: The Force Awakens (Warner, PS3/PS4/WiiU/X360/XOne: \$49.99–\$59.99, Rated: RP). In this latest entry from the award-winning third-person action-adventure LEGO series, players experience all of the storylines from *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*—seen through the clever and witty lens of LEGO.



Star Ocean: Integrity and Faithlessness (Square Enix, PS4: \$59.99, Rated: T). This fifth installment of the classic third-person role-playing franchise is set between the second and third games in the series, as the Pangalactic Federation nears the fulfillment of its mission of peace and order throughout the galaxy—only to discover that the embers of conflict are beginning to stir on the planet of Faykreed.

TV on DVD/Blu-ray

Available Now

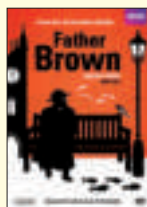
The Beverly Hillbillies: The Official First Season (Paramount, DVD: 5 discs, \$29.98). Country bumpkins (Buddy Ebsen, Irene Ryan, Donna Douglas, and Max Baer Jr.) navigate life in Californ-y in this “official” 1962–63 debut season of the comedy series.

Doctor Who: The Complete Ninth Se-

ries (BBC, DVD: 4 discs, \$74.98; Blu-ray: 4 discs, \$89.98). Peter Capaldi continues his adventures as the Twelfth Doctor in this 2015 ninth season of the long-running cult sci-fi time-travel series.

Family Matters: The Complete Sixth Season (Warner, DVD: 3 discs, \$29.99). Dorky neighbor Steve Urkel (Jaleel White) irritates the Winslow family in this 1994–95 sixth season, which features guest stars including Sherman Hemsley, Tom Poston, and Trina McGee-Davis.

Father Brown: Season Three, Part One (BBC, DVD: 2 discs, \$39.98). Inspired by the classic mystery stories by G.K. Chesterton, this first set of episodes from the 2015 third season starring Mark Williams as the titular crime-solving priest includes “The Man in the Shadows” and “The Curse of Amenhotep.”



Freaks and Geeks: The Complete Series (Shout! Factory, Blu-ray: 9 discs, \$119). Focusing on the ups and downs of high school life for two groups of outsiders, this compilation from the 1999–2000 Paul Feig/Judd Apatow series starring James Franco and Jason Segel is newly available in a high-definition Blu-ray collector's edition.

Grace and Frankie: Season One (Lionsgate, DVD: 3 discs, \$29.99). Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin star as rivals whose husbands fall in love in this 2015 debut season of the Netflix comedy series, featuring guest appearances by Mary Kay Place, Corbin Bernsen, Ernie Hudson, and Michael Gross.

London Spy (BBC, DVD: 2 discs, \$24.98). A romance between two young men enters the realm of espionage in this five-part 2015 BBC Two miniseries that stars Ben Whishaw, Edward Holcroft, Jim Broadbent, and Charlotte Rampling.

The Odd Couple: Season One (Paramount, DVD: 2 discs, \$36.99). Disparate roommates Oscar Madison and Felix Unger (Matthew Perry and Thomas Lennon) enjoy wacky domestic escapades in this 2015 first season of the reboot of the classic comedy series.



May 3

Airwolf: The Complete Series (Mill

Creek, Blu-ray: 14 discs, \$99.98). Starring Jan-Michael Vincent and Ernest Borgnine, Donald P. Bellisario's Emmy-winning 1984–87 action series centering on the titular powerful helicopter is newly available on high-definition Blu-ray.

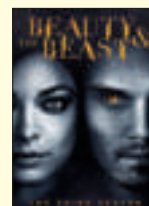
The Brokenwood Mysteries: Series 2 (Acorn, DVD: 4 discs, \$59.99; Blu-ray: 2 discs, \$59.99). Starring Neill Rea and Fern Sutherland as detectives who uncover secrets in the titular countryside small town, this 2015 sophomore season of the New Zealand-based drama includes four mysteries.



The Last Ship: The Complete Second Season (Warner, DVD: 3 discs, \$39.98; Blu-ray: 3 discs, \$49.99). Navy Captain Tom Chandler (Eric Dane) and his team return stateside with a cure for the infamous Red Virus in this 2015 second season of the post-apocalyptic drama series, also featuring Rhona Mitra and Adam Baldwin.

May 10

Beauty & the Beast: The Third Season (Paramount, DVD: 4 discs, \$45.98). The beastly Vincent (Jay Ryan) and detective Cat (Kristin Kreuk) adjust to their romance being thrust into the spotlight in this 2015 third season of the CW-aired supernatural drama series.



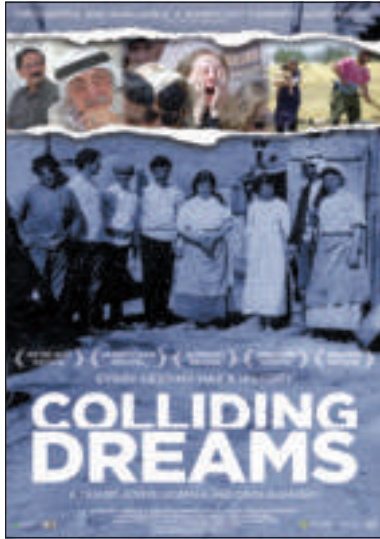
Doctor Foster (BBC, DVD: 2 discs, \$19.98). This five-part 2015 first season of the BBC drama series follows a doctor (Suranne Jones) whose world is rocked by her husband's (Bertie Carvel) affair.

The Jim Gaffigan Show: Season One (Paramount, DVD: 2 discs, \$26.98). Inspired by the life of comedian Jim Gaffigan, this 2015 debut season of the TV Land comedy series stars Gaffigan as a fictionalized version of himself, and also features Ashley Williams and Michael Ian Black.

Killjoys: Season One (Universal, DVD: 2 discs, \$39.98; Blu-ray: 2 discs, \$44.98). Co-produced by Syfy, this Canadian adventure series follows the interplanetary escapades of bounty hunters (Hannah John-Kamen, Aaron Ashmore, and Luke Macfarlane).

Newhart: The Complete Fifth Season

Best Sellers & New Releases from KINOLORBEREDU.COM



COLLIDING DREAMS

With roots that began in noble ideals, Zionism has spawned both the state of Israel and one of the world's most desperate and long-running political conflicts. The Zionist idea remains little understood and its meanings often distorted. Has it been coopted by extremists? Is it intrinsically unjust? Or can the needs of all people in this troubled region somehow be reconciled? Bold and powerful, *Colliding Dreams* is a gripping, in-depth exploration of Zionism's history and future, rendering a moving portrait of its people and controversies.

"A thoughtful and invaluable cinematic document that will prove particularly enlightening. Stands as a significant cinematic achievement."

-The Hollywood Reporter

Without PPR \$149 • With PPR \$349 • DSL \$499



THE 78 PROJECT MOVIE

Inspired by Alan Lomax and his quest throughout the early 20th century to capture music where it lived, *The 78 Project* reveals the passion and practice of field recording as never before. Pairing breakthrough musicians with the songs and technologies of the past, *The 78 Project* showcases landmark performances and insights by technologists, historians, artists and craftsmen. Rollicking and deeply entertaining, *The 78 Project* goes inside American music in a way seldom experienced by today's listeners.

"The 78 Project grabs American music by the roots."

-USA Today

"Rises above simple vintage worship and does more than just glorify the past—it helps us experience it."

-The Village Voice

Without PPR \$149 • With PPR \$349 • DSL \$499



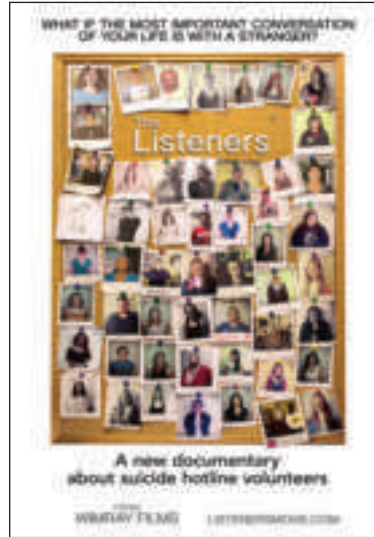
HOW TO DANCE IN OHIO

A first kiss, a first dance - for kids from all walks of life, these first steps toward intimacy are at once exciting and terrifying. And, for some teenagers and young adults on the autism spectrum, the transition can be nothing less than paralyzing. In Columbus, Ohio, a group of young people with an array of developmental challenges prepares for a spring formal dance by meeting for 12 weeks to practice their social skills as they prepare for the big event. Entertaining, funny and heartbreaking, *How To Dance In Ohio* challenges us to question and celebrate the path to human connection and to rethink the definition of normal.

"...tender, compassionate...a study of people that you won't soon forget..."

-RogerEbert.com

Without PPR \$149 • With PPR \$349 • DSL \$499



THE LISTENERS

In Lawrence, Kansas, 11 young volunteers undergo some of the nation's most rigorous training to become volunteer counselors at a suicide hotline call center at Headquarters, a crisis center since the early 70's, and legendary for its level of commitment through volunteer counseling. Learning how to listen with empathy and without judging proves harder and more taxing than the volunteers imagined, and mastering the skills necessary to save lives becomes a quest that will change their own forever. In the face of America's least-understood public health issue comes a stirring documentary about courage, service and personal sacrifice.

Endorsed by the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

Without PPR \$149 • With PPR \$349 • DSL \$499



ROCKAWAY: BEFORE AND AFTER

A two part-documentary about Queens' unique waterfront neighborhood comes on one DVD. The first film, *The Bungalows of Rockaway*, takes a modest subject and reveals the larger themes of working class leisure and urbanism. The second film focuses on Hurricane Sandy and the aftermath, as residents staggered by loss discover new possibilities for life on the shore in the time of global warming.

"An incisive analysis of urban policy making."

-Robert Caro, Pulitzer-Prize winning author

"Perfect!"

-Film critic Phillip Lopate

"Arresting and important documentary."

-Sharon Marcus, Orlando Harriman Professor, Columbia University

Without PPR \$149 • With PPR \$349 • DSL \$499



SONGS MY BROTHERS TAUGHT ME

This compelling and complex portrait of modern day life on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation explores the bond between a brother and his younger sister, who find themselves on separate paths to rediscovering the meaning of home. With admirable sensitivity, *Songs My Brothers Taught Me* infiltrates isolated Indian Country, offering a universally resonant and unforgettable tale, keenly felt through the eyes of its magnetic non-professional lead actors.

"Strong notes of hope and of bone-deep identity..."

-The Hollywood Reporter

"Poetic...Poignant...Breathtaking..."

-Variety

Without PPR \$149 • With PPR \$349 • DSL \$499

For information about exhibition, public performance rights or streaming, please go to www.kinolorberedu.com or call (212) 629-6880

A KINO LORBER COMPANY
incorporated

(Shout! Factory, DVD: 3 discs, \$29.95). This 1986-87 fifth season continues the small-town B&B escapades of a former New Yorker (Bob Newhart), and features a guest appearance by Shelley Fabares.

Scream—The TV Series: The Complete First Season (Anchor Bay, DVD: 3 discs, \$34.98). Vulnerable teens struggle with a new threat in their troubled town in this 2015 first season based on Wes Craven's slasher franchise, starring Willa Fitzgerald, Bex Taylor-Klaus, and John Karna.

War & Peace: The Complete Miniseries (Anchor Bay, DVD: 2 discs, \$39.99; Blu-ray: 2 discs, \$49.99). Starring Paul Dano, Lily James, James Norton, Gillian Anderson, and Brian Cox, this 2016 historical miniseries adapts the classic epic novel by Leo Tolstoy.

May 17

Angie Tribeca: The Complete First Season (Warner, DVD: 2 discs, \$24.98). Rashida Jones stars as the titular member of the "Really Heinous Crimes Unit" in this 2016 first season of the TBS series, which also features Hayes MacArthur, Deon Cole, and Jere Burns.

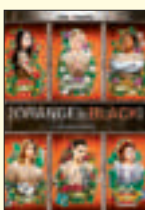


Cop Rock: The Complete Series (Shout! Factory, DVD: 3 discs, \$29.95). Aired in 1990, this musical police drama—following an LAPD ensemble—stars Anne Bobby, Ronny Cox, and Vondie Curtis-Hall.

The Facts of Life: The Final Season (Shout! Factory, DVD: 3 discs, \$29.95). The 1987-88 ninth and final season of this coming-of-age sitcom features guest appearances by Dennis Haysbert, David Spade, and Juliette Lewis.

Mr. Selfridge: The Complete Fourth Season (PBS, DVD: 3 discs, \$39.99; Blu-ray: 3 discs, \$49.99). Based on Lindy Woodhead's *Shopping, Seduction and Mr. Selfridge* biography, this 2016 fourth and final season wraps up the story of London department store magnate Harry Gordon Selfridge (Jeremy Piven).

Orange Is the New Black: Season Three (Lionsgate, DVD: 4 discs, \$34.98; Blu-ray: 3 discs, \$34.98). Based on the memoir by Piper Kerman, this 2015 third season of the Emmy-winning



Netflix prison dramedy series stars Taylor Schilling, Uzo Aduba, Laura Prepon, and Ruby Rose.

May 24

Call the Midwife: Season Five (BBC, DVD: 3 discs, \$39.98; Blu-ray: 2 discs, \$44.98). This 2016 fifth series following the personal and professional lives of nurses and nuns working at London's East End Nonnatus House stars Jenny Agutter, Judy Parfitt, and Helen George.



A French Village: Season 4 (MHz, DVD: 4 discs, \$39.95). Thierry Godard and Audrey Fleuret star in this 2012 fourth season of the French television series—broadcast stateside on MHz Choice—about life in a small village during the German occupation in World War II. Also newly available at the same price is *A French Village: Season 5*.

Lou Grant: The Complete First Season (Shout! Factory, DVD: 5 discs, \$39.98). Former news director Lou Grant (Ed Asner) relocates to L.A. in this 1977-78 first season of *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* spin-off that also stars Robert Walden and Nancy Marchand.

Major Crimes: The Complete Fourth Season (Warner, DVD: 5 discs, \$44.99). Starring Mary McDonnell as Los Angeles police captain Sharon Raydor, this 2015-16 fourth season of the TNT legal drama spin-off from *The Closer* features a guest appearance by James Eckhouse.

Mystery Science Theatre 3000, Volume Two (Shout! Factory, DVD: 4 discs, \$44.99). This compilation of bad movies snarkily commented on by robot friends Tom Servo and Crow includes a collection of educational shorts.



Outsiders: Season One (Sony, DVD: 4 discs, \$45.99). A rural Kentucky family protects their way-of-life at all costs in this 2016 debut season of the WGN America original drama series starring David Morse, Joe Anderson, and Gillian Alexy.

The Wonder Years: Season Five (Time Life, DVD: 4 discs, \$29.95). Fred Savage is back as high school student Kevin Arnold in this 1991-92 penultimate fifth season of

the coming-of-age series, featuring guest appearances by Carla Gugino and David Schwimmer.

May 31

The Last Panthers (Acorn, DVD or Blu-ray: 2 discs, \$39.99). A diamond heist linked to the old Pink Panther crew sets in motion a series of events in this 2015 Sundance TV-aided six-part European crime drama starring Samantha Morton, John Hurt, and Tahar Rahim.

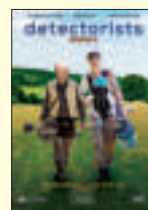
Suits: Season Five (Universal, DVD: 4 discs, \$44.98). This 2015-16 fifth season of the USA Network drama starring Gabriel Macht and Patrick J. Adams as a legal team finds them struggling when Mike's (Adams) lack of credentials becomes public knowledge and a trial ensues.



June 7

Arabian Nights (Mill Creek, DVD: \$14.98). Mili Avital, Alan Bates, John Leguizamo, Andy Serkis, and Dougray Scott star in this 2000 two-part miniseries based on Sir Richard Francis Burton's translation of the classic *One Thousand and One Nights*.

Detectorists: Series 2 (Acorn, DVD: 2 discs, \$39.99). Metal-detecting pals Andy and Lance (Mackenzie Crook and Toby Jones) balance their quirky hobby with real-life trials and triumphs in this 2015 sophomore season of the BAFTA-winning dramedy series.



Duck Dynasty: Season 9 (Lionsgate, DVD: 2 discs, \$19.98). This 2016 ninth season of the A&E reality series focuses on the ups and downs of the bayou-based Robertson family, and includes a college road trip.

Kroll Show: Season 3 (Paramount, DVD: 2 discs, \$26.98). Comedian Nick Kroll is spotlighted in this 2015 third season of his Comedy Central-aided sketch series, which features guest appearances by Ed Helms, Brie Larson, Hannibal Buress, and Fred Armisen.

Moone Boy: The Complete Series (BBC, DVD: 3 discs, \$49.99). The youngest son (David Rawle) in a big family becomes embroiled in wild escapades with his

NEW FROM JANSON MEDIA

In this new documentary, filmmaker Dina Fiasconaro examines the confusing often contradictory messages that expecting mothers receive about the safety of psychiatric medication. The film focuses on the personal stories of the women, and the many facets of making such decisions. It addresses their struggle and emotional turmoil, as well as their hope and perseverance, and advocates for their ability to make the best individual choices for themselves and their families. It also raises larger issues related to the functioning of our healthcare system, the pervasiveness of mental health stigma across the country and the importance of familial and peer support that is so crucial for a struggling mother.

"Overall, Fiasconaro hopes her documentary elevates the cultural dialogue about mental health and pregnancy and might help sway more doctors into 'taking this more seriously, [and getting] trained to look for their symptoms.'" - Laura Barcella, Baltimore City Paper

60 Minutes • MSRP: \$19.95
CATALOG #20606 • UPC # 6-460320606-0
PRICE WITH PFR: \$295 • PRICE WITH DSL: \$495
PRICE WITH PFR AND DSL: \$595



"The doctors work in silos. Nobody is talking to one another. The doctors want to do the right thing, but I think their hands are tied bureaucratically and by the health insurance companies."

- Dina Fiasconaro, Director

*Narrated by actor and activist
Mike Farrell (star of M*A*S*H)*



The tradition of *The Irish Pub*. Speaking to pub owners all over Ireland, Alex Fegan gets into the heart of what makes the Irish pub the institution that it is. *The Irish Pub* is a eulogy to the greatest institution in Irish society, the pub or more specifically the traditional Irish publicans who run them. The characters in this exceptionally endearing film all run and own pubs that have been in their families for generations and it is through their warmth, wit and wisdom that we gain an insight into the heart and soul of *The Irish Pub*.

"The Irish Pub, a lovingly laid-back documentary about the charms, liquid and otherwise, of the traditional Irish watering hole." -The Washington Post

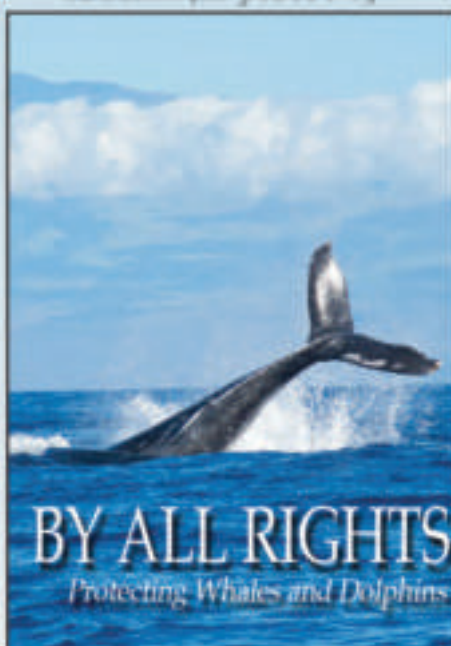
72 Minutes • MSRP: \$19.95
CATALOG #20608 • UPC # 6-460320608-0
PRICE WITH PFR: \$295 • PRICE WITH DSL: \$495
PRICE WITH PFR AND DSL: \$595

"The Irish Pub is a picturesque yet realistic documentary about life in Ireland's drinking establishments...might bring a tear to your eye." -The Boston Globe

By All Rights boldly makes the case for providing whales and dolphins with legal "personhood" status, a case that takes into consideration their culture, their intelligence and their many similarities to humans. In this one-hour television documentary, attorney Steve Wise and other advocates argues that such a change in status would allow lawyers to sue on behalf of these autonomous mammals when they suffer harm from such human activities as the use of sonar, captivity, and ocean pollution.

"By All Rights is a beautiful piece of work, and it is hard to take your eyes off the screen. The photography is extraordinary, and the case for whale and dolphin rights is made calmly and clearly." - George Osterkamp, West Coast Producer, CBS News

58 Minutes • MSRP: \$19.95
CATALOG #20607 • UPC # 6-460320607-0
PRICE WITH PFR: \$295 • PRICE WITH DSL: \$495
PRICE WITH PFR AND DSL: \$595



BY ALL RIGHTS
Protecting Whales and Dolphins

AVAILABLE FROM ALL MAJOR DISTRIBUTORS

www.janson.com • info@janson.com

www.facebook.com/jansonmedia



View trailers online:

www.janson.com

www.youtube.com/jansonmedia

imaginary friend (Chris O'Dowd) in this 2012-15 Irish sitcom.

Rizzoli & Isles: The Complete Sixth Season (Warner, DVD: 4 discs, \$39.99). Detective Jane Rizzoli (Angie Harmon) is being threatened by an unknown culprit, while her medical examiner compatriot Dr. Maura Isles (Sasha Alexander) goes missing, in this 2015-16 sixth season of the TNT-aired crime drama series based on the books by Tess Gerritsen.

The Shannara Chronicles: Season One (Paramount, DVD: 3 discs, \$29.98). Based on the fantasy book series by Terry Brooks, this MTV-aired 2016 first season stars Austin Butler, Poppy Drayton, and Ivana Baquero.



The Spoils Before Dying (IFC, DVD: \$24.98). Will Ferrell, Michael Kenneth Williams, Kristen Wiig, and Maya Rudolph star in this 2015 IFC-aired comic miniseries spoof, a follow-up to 2014's *The Spoils of Babylon*.

June 14

Ballers: The Complete First Season (HBO, DVD: 2 discs, \$29.98; Blu-ray: 2 discs, \$34.98). A retired football star (Dwayne Johnson) serves as a financial manager to the next generation of players in this 2015 debut season of the HBO-aired comedy series, which also features Rob Corddry and John David Washington.

Birds of a Feather: Set 1 (Acorn, DVD: \$34.99). A revival of the 1989-98 series, this 2014 first set of the Britcom follows sisters (Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson) who live together.



Dark Matter: Season One (Funimation, DVD: 5 discs, \$44.98; Blu-ray: 5 discs, \$49.98). Based on a comic book series, this 2015 first season of the Space channel-aired series centering on six amnesiacs on a starship features Marc Bendavid, Melissa O'Neil, and Anthony Lemke.

Grantchester: The Complete Second Season (PBS, DVD: 2 discs, \$39.99; Blu-ray: 2 discs, \$49.99). Anglican priest and music/whiskey aficionado Sidney Chambers (James Norton) is back helping his local inspector friend (Robson Green)

solve crimes in this 2016 second season of the ITV drama based on the short stories by James Runcie.

The League: The Final Fantasy (Fox, DVD: 2 discs, \$29.98). This 2015 seventh and final season of the FX comedy series about fantasy football fans features guest appearances by Will Forte, Rob Riggle, Seth Rogen, and Aziz Ansari.

Maude: The Complete Fifth Season (Shout! Factory, DVD: 3 discs, \$26.99). Bea Arthur stars as outspoken feminist Maude in this 1976-77 fifth season of the Norman Lear sitcom, featuring guest appearances by Martin Balsam and Michael Keaton.

Suspects: Series One & Two (Acorn, DVD: 3 discs, \$49.99). DS, DC, and DI workers (Damien Molony, Clare-Hope Ashitey, and Faye Ripley) delve into crimes in contemporary London in this compilation of the 2014 first two seasons of the largely improvised documentary-style police procedural series.

X-Files: The Event Series (Fox, DVD: 2 discs, \$19.98; Blu-ray: 3 discs, \$29.99). This 2016 six-part miniseries continuation of the earlier 1993-2002 sci-fi horror drama features David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson reprising their roles as FBI special agents Mulder and Scully.



June 21

Janet King—Series 1: The Enemy Within (Acorn, DVD: 3 discs, \$49.99). Senior crown prosecutor Janet King (Marta Dusseldorp) drops back into a controversial case after returning from maternity leave in this 2014 first season of the Australian spin-off of the earlier drama series *Crownies*.

Wallander 4 (BBC, DVD: 2 discs, \$34.98). Based on the books by Henning Mankell, this BBC adaptation stars Kenneth Branagh as the titular detective in three episodes from the 2016 fourth series.

June 28

DCI Banks: Season Four (BBC, DVD: 2 discs, \$34.98). Starring Stephen Tompkinson as Detective Chief Inspector Alan Banks, this 2015 fourth season of two-part episodes includes "What Will Survive," "Buried," and "Ghosts."



Two Guys and a Girl: Complete Series (Shout! Factory, DVD: 11 discs, \$79.98). A pizza place hangout features prominently in this 1998-2001 Boston-set sitcom starring Ryan Reynolds, Traylor Howard, and Richard Ruccolo.

Looking Ahead

Slated for July are the fourth seasons of *Death in Paradise* and *Orphan Black*. Slated for August is the third season of *Last Tango in Halifax*.

Re-priced or New to DVD/Blu-ray

Addiction Incorporated (Virgil, DVD: \$19.99). Directed by Charles Evans Jr., this 2011 documentary explores the work of research scientist Victor DeNoble, whose findings on the addictive qualities of cigarettes were instrumental during the 1994 Congressional hearings conducted with the heads of major tobacco companies.

The Decline of Western Civilization (Shout! Factory, DVD: \$14.98, Blu-ray: \$19.98). Previously released in a boxed set (VL-9/15 ★★), director Penelope Spheeris's 1981 documentary on punk and heavy metal is now available separately, with extras including bonus footage, interviews, and performances, plus audio commentaries by Spheeris and Dave Grohl. Also newly available at the same price is *The Decline of Western Civilization, Part II: The Metal Years*.



Deserts and Life (PBS, DVD: 2 discs, \$34.99). Aired on PBS, this 2011 series focusing on nature and culture takes viewers to deserts including the Namib in Africa, the Gobi in Mongolia, the Atacama in Chile, the Thar in India, the Great Australian Desert, and the Judean Desert in Israel. Also newly available is *NOVA: Secret Tunnel Warfare* (DVD: \$24.99).

How to Change the World (Kino Lorber, DVD: \$29.95). Filmmaker Jerry Rothwell's 2015 documentary (VL-3/16 ★★1/2) chronicles the humble beginnings of the environmental organization Greenpeace. Extras include additional scenes. Also newly available at the same price is *Of Men and War* (VL-3/16 ★★1/2) and, priced at \$24.95, *Vessel* (VL-1/16 ★★1/2).



Compelling New Releases from Vision Video



Heroes: Saving Jewish Lives from the Nazis

The residents of the Plateau du Vivarais, a remote region in the French countryside, stood up against the occupying Nazis and their French collaborators by giving sanctuary to those fleeing persecution during World War II. Through their efforts over 3,000 Jews and other persecuted people were spared. Experience the stories of this dark yet triumphant time as told by those who were there, and learn why they were so willing to risk their lives to stand against the status quo. Documentary, 70 minutes.

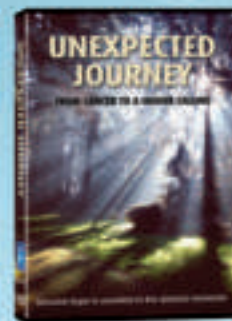
#501681D, \$19.99, UPC 7 27985 01681 8



A Man Named Martin

The life of Martin Luther is one of resolute conviction and steadfast faith. His contributions to the reform of the medieval Church are unparalleled. He courageously stood against unbiblical teaching, refusing to back down in the face of public abuse and threats on his life. This documentary examines the life and teaching of this great reformer. With tenacity and bravery, Martin Luther inspired a Reformation that reverberates throughout the centuries. Documentary, 80 minutes.

#501661D, \$19.99, UPC 7 27985 01661 0



Unexpected Journey

Walk hand-in-hand with four different cancer patients and survivors who discover new meaning and purpose to their lives as they face the unknown future during their battles. From hearing the news from their physician, to going through chemotherapy, to battling the different fears and emotions, these individuals testify how their faith plays a major role in giving them hope as they travel an *Unexpected Journey*. Documentary, 34 minutes.

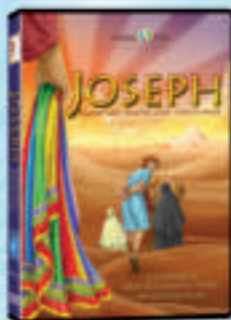
#501687D, \$14.99, UPC 7 27985 01687 0



World War I Military Chaplains

Military chaplains, men of faith serving in World War I, found themselves facing the gruesome reality of modern warfare. Serving side by side with soldiers in the trenches, chaplains became essential to the spiritual and psychological needs of those under their care. This four-part series takes you inside the lives of military chaplains who served during the Great War. Dramatic reenactments and interviews with key experts shed new light on an often overlooked but important role. Documentary, 100 minutes.

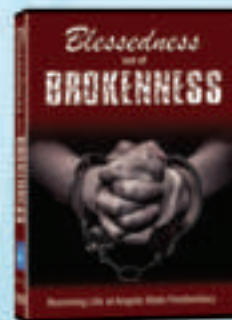
#501664D, \$19.99, UPC 7 27985 01664 1



Joseph: Beloved Son, Rejected Slave, Exalted Ruler

The thrilling biblical story of Joseph is told in this high quality 3-D animated feature film for children ages 5 and up. Young Joseph is a dreamer, indulged by his father and resented by his older brothers, who soon sell him into slavery. Now captive in Egypt, Joseph experiences humiliation and imprisonment. But his faith and his gift for interpreting dreams soon lead him to an exalted position in the kingdom. When his brothers come calling for help, Joseph responds in a surprising way. Animated, 90 minutes.

#501579D, \$14.99, UPC 7 27985 01579 8



Blessedness out of Brokenness

Follow along as Ken Curtis, founder of Vision Video, visits Louisiana State Penitentiary, often called "Angola." As he was reflecting on the Beatitudes in light of his journey with cancer, Ken wanted to learn from people who knew well the brokenness described as blessed in the Beatitudes. This documentary presents the stories of inmates who have found new life and purpose through their faith. Many of these men are facing life sentences. Ken also interviews Angola's iconic prison warden, Burl Cain. Documentary, 60 minutes.

#501676D, \$14.99, UPC 7 27985 01676 4



Vision Video
PO Box 540
Worcester, PA 19490
1-800-523-0226 • 610-584-3500
Fax: 610-584-6643
E-mail: info@visionvideo.com
Web: www.VisionVideo.com

OUR UNCONDITIONAL GUARANTEE:

If, for any reason, a product does not meet your expectations, return it to us, and we will exchange it or give you a refund. All DVDs are guaranteed against any defects. Available from Baker and Taylor, Midwest Tape, or directly from Vision Video.

Video Movies

This section features reviews of current and classic studio, independent, and foreign feature films. Each review includes pricing information, as well as running time, rating, subtitling information, and street dates for yet-to-be-released titles. Most titles reviewed here are widely available through most distributors.

★★★★ = Excellent

★★★ = Good

★★ = Fair

★ = Poor

Current Films

The 5th Wave ★1/2

Sony, 112 min., PG-13, DVD: \$26.99, Blu-ray: \$34.99, May 3

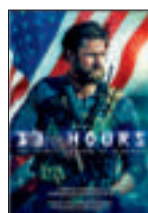
What would happen if Earth were invaded by extraterrestrials? In the 1st wave, they'd switch off the planet's electrical power: an onerous precursor to further disasters, particularly for technology-dependent teenagers. In the 2nd wave, there'd be a Biblical deluge, with tsunamis triggered by earthquakes. The 3rd wave is an avian flu fatal to humans, followed by the 4th wave of an infestation of alien body-snatchers. In the 5th wave, the strange craft belonging to the visitors—who are called the Others—hovers overhead with plans to wipe out the human race and repopulate the planet. Ohio high schooler Cassie Sullivan (Chloë Grace Moretz), her younger brother Sam (Zackary Arthur), and her boyfriend Ben Parish (Nick Robinson) are among those affected, as tidal waves smash Miami, and London's Tower Bridge comes falling down. Giving her a gun, Cassie's father (Ron Livingston) advises, "Nowhere is safe anymore." That becomes evident when suburban parents load their kids on buses to be taken to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, deemed a secure location by Colonel Vosch (Liev Schreiber), and Cassie becomes separated from Sam. Saved from an enemy sniper by Evan Walker (Alex Roe), Cassie is, nevertheless, suspicious of her mysterious benefactor. Ineptly adapted from the 2013 first book of Rick Yancey's YA trilogy, this shallow and confusing film from director J. Blakeson is aimed at adolescent fans of *The Hunger Games* and *Divergent*, but it's a dystopian disappointment. Not a necessary purchase. (S. Granger)



13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi ★★

Paramount, 144 min., R, DVD: \$29.99, Blu-ray/DVD Combo: \$39.99, June 7

Speaking of *13 Hours*, Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz said, "This new movie relates the incredible bravery of the men fighting for their lives in Benghazi and the politicians that abandoned them," while Donald Trump rented a movie theater and distributed free tickets before the Iowa primary. This patriotic, action-packed thriller allegedly chronicles the 2012 attack on the diplomatic compound in Libya that killed U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three other Americans. But despite the film's assertions, the now-retired CIA station chief—identified only as "Bob"—denies that he ever issued an order to "stand down." "There never was a stand down order," he told the *Washington Post*/Associated Press. "At no time did I ever second-guess that the team would depart." Indeed, a two-year investigation by the House Intelligence Committee found that the CIA and military acted properly in responding to the Islamic extremist attack and determined there was no delay in dispatching a CIA rescue team. But this is a Michael Bay movie: so forget accuracy and clarity. "No one will mistake this movie for a documentary," stated CIA spokesman Ryan Trapani. "It's a distortion of the events and people who served in Benghazi that night. It's shameful that, in order to highlight the heroism of some, those responsible for the movie felt the need to denigrate the courage of other Americans who served in harm's way." Based on Mitchell Zuckoff's nonfiction bestseller, *13 Hours* is peppered with violent shootouts, firebombs, and a completely fictitious bus explosion. Hunky John Krasinski plays a rugged Navy SEAL-turned-private security contractor, with costars including Pablo Schreiber, Max Martini, James Badge Dale, David Denman, and Dominic Fumusa. Hollywood hokum, this is optional, at best. (S. Granger)



40 Love ★★★

First Run, 95 min., in French w/English subtitles, not rated, DVD: \$24.95

Stéphane Demoustier's debut feature—a drama about both a father's effort to rebuild his life after losing his job, and the ambition of his tennis-obsessed son—is constructed rather like an exciting match, with the narrative bouncing back and forth between the two principals. Olivier Gourmet stars as Jérôme, who is fired after years of managing a department store. Following a fruitless search for another job, Jérôme decides to use years of experience to start a business of his own, which requires



both research and financial backing. Meanwhile, the discovery that Jérôme's 11-year-old son Ugo (Charles Mérienne) has a heart condition that increases his stamina on the tennis court leads to Ugo being invited to an advanced training program that could earn him a spot at France's national center for gifted players. In the midst of all this, Jérôme's wife (Valeria Bruni Tedeschi) decides to seek a new life, and the father-son bond grows closer, until a twist confronts Jérôme with a painful decision concerning the future of both. The narrative turns in *40 Love* aren't always completely credible, but Demoustier's grittily realistic approach, along with the excellent performances by Gourmet and Mérienne, lend the film an otherwise true sense of authenticity that makes up for occasional lapses. Recommended. (F. Swietek)

45 Years ★★★

Paramount, 95 min., R, DVD: \$29.98, Blu-ray: \$39.99, June 14

Set in the rural Norfolk countryside, Andrew Haigh's emotional drama revolves around a middle-class English couple who are preparing to celebrate their 45th anniversary when the arrival of a mysterious letter shakes the foundation of their seemingly idyllic marriage. Kate (Charlotte Rampling) and Geoff (Tom Courtenay) are stunned when an official dispatch from Switzerland informs Geoff that the body of his former German girlfriend, Katya, has been found. Back in 1962, when Geoff and Katya were hiking in the Alps, Katya fell into a fissure in a glacier. Since they were pretending to be married, Geoff was officially listed as her next of kin and, as such, has been asked to identify Katya's recently recovered corpse. After receiving the disturbing news, Geoff becomes increasingly preoccupied with memories of Katya, and he confesses that he would have married Katya had she lived. Noting, "I can hardly be cross with something that happened before we existed, can I?" the emotionally strained, increasingly jealous Kate nevertheless feels compelled to search the attic for Alpine photographs of Katya, one of which reveals that she was pregnant at the time of her death. Significantly, Kate and Geoff are childless, devoted only to each other and their Alsatian dog Max. Adapting "In Another Country" from David Constantine's 2005 *Under the Dam* short-story collection, writer-director Haigh compassionately explores the natural complexities of intimacy, with fine performances from Oscar nominee Rampling and Courtenay. Recommended. (S. Granger)



Anomalisa ★★★

Paramount, 90 min., R, DVD: \$29.99, Blu-ray/DVD Combo: \$39.99, June 7

Writer-director Charlie Kaufman's Os-

**"ONE OF THE YEARS
BEST FILMS."**

- BBC.COM

**"GRIPPING... BEN FOSTER
IS BRILLIANT AS LANCE ARMSTRONG."**

- DAILY NEWS



From Academy Award® nominated director Stephen Frears comes the true story of the rise and fall of Lance Armstrong, one of the most celebrated and controversial men in recent history. Sports journalist David Walsh becomes convinced that Armstrong's Tour de France victories are fueled by banned substances and begins hunting for evidence to expose him.

PRE-ORDER DATE:
APRIL 12, 2016

STREET DATE:
MAY 17, 2016



THE PROGRAM - DVD
ITEM #: EOE-DV-8105
UPC: 7-41952-81059-9
SRP: \$24.98



STUDIOCANAL

WORKING TITLE

ACE ENTERTAINMENT

DIRECTV

momentum
an entertainment company

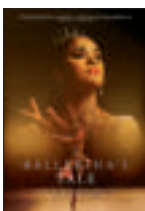
car-nominated stop-motion animated film for adults centers on middle-aged Michael Stone (voiced by David Thewlis), the acutely depressed author of the successful customer-service self-help book *How May I Help You Help Them?* Preparing to deliver a motivational speech in Cincinnati the next day, Michael checks into the posh Fregoli Hotel, dutifully calls his wife and son in Los Angeles, and tries to re-ignite an old flame for a drink. Significantly, everyone Michael speaks with—the flight attendant, taxi driver, desk clerk, bellhop, and family members—looks and sounds the same (all are voiced by Tom Noonan), often robotically repeating banal phrases. Wretchedly lonely and disillusioned, Michael encounters an insecure, impressionable young admirer named Lisa (Jennifer Jason Leigh), a naïve bakery-sales rep who—after some apple mojitos—eagerly responds to his overtures in her own distinctive voice, warbling Cyndi Lauper’s “Girls Just Want to Have Fun.” “You’re an anomaly,” he tells her after they share a long and explicit sex scene. Kaufman’s story originated in 2005 as a “radio play” for composer Carter Burwell’s Theater of New Ear at UCLA in Los Angeles. Incidentally, the name of the hotel references a rare psychiatric condition called the Fregoli delusion, in which a person sees the rest of the world as populated by multiple versions of one ominously malevolent individual. Absurdist and surreal, *Anomalisa* offers an interesting existential meditation on social isolation. Recommended. (S. Granger)



A Ballerina's Tale ★★★

MPI, 84 min., not rated, DVD: \$24.98, Blu-ray: \$29.98

Filmmaker Nelson George’s *A Ballerina’s Tale* presents a biography of Misty Copeland, a trail-blazing young woman who not only overcame a difficult childhood to become a terpsichorean superstar, but also as an African American broke a racial barrier that had long existed in major American dance companies. Although Copeland did not begin ballet studies in California until she was 13, her talent was quickly recognized, ultimately resulting in a 1999 invitation to the American Ballet Theatre in New York, where she would become a member of the corps two years later. In reflective interviews, Copeland confesses to feeling isolated at the ABT due to her ethnicity, and she credits the encouragement of leading African-American women from other fields in helping her persevere to win an appointment as a soloist in 2007, and then in 2015 to become the first black prima ballerina in the ABT’s history—despite a serious ankle injury that required surgery and a long rehabilitation. Copeland’s story,



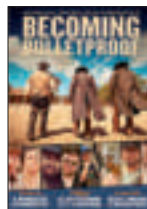
told through a combination of interviews and archival footage, is one that is truly inspiring. Recommended. (F. Swietek)

Becoming Bulletproof

★★★

Virgil, 82 min., not rated, DVD: \$19.99

Filmmaker Michael Barnett’s touching documentary is about the making of an unusual Western film called *Bulletproof*—the latest in a string of annual productions from Zeno Mountain Farm in Vermont that star a diverse group of disabled and non-disabled actors. A longtime project run by brothers Will and Peter Halby and their wives, Zeno accepts volunteer actors with any kind of disability and a desire to perform. Viewers will get to know quite a few of the actors, but the focus is largely on two unique and fascinating individuals: Jeremy Vest, born with Williams syndrome—a developmental disorder that results in elfin features, as well as more serious complications—who stars as the title character, a hero with a six-shooter; and A.J. Murray, a wheelchair-bound young man with cerebral palsy, who plays a mayor. For a couple of weeks every year, these eager actors get to experience life without limits to their hopes and dreams (Murray, especially, wants to turn his hobby into a career). Also rewarding for everyone concerned is seeing the finished film on a big screen in a nice theater, surrounded by family and friends. As for the people at Zeno who make all this possible, they explain how important it is to get past one’s knee-jerk inclination to dismiss people with disabilities and be able to see things through their eyes. Recommended. (T. Keogh)



The Benefactor ★1/2

Entertainment One, 92 min., not rated, DVD: \$29.98, Blu-ray: \$32.98

Arrogant yet affable Franny (Richard Gere) is a wealthy Philadelphia philanthropist who is haunted by guilt. As his story begins, Franny is developing a children’s hospital-wing project with married friends (Cheryl Hines, Dylan Baker). Smoking pot in the backseat of their car, euphoric Franny’s impulsive but distracting hug leads to an automobile accident that kills the couple. Five years later, Franny is living in seclusion while recovering from devastating injuries when he receives a call from the couple’s twentysomething daughter, Olivia (Dakota Fanning). Newly married to doctor Luke (Theo James) and pregnant, Olivia wants to move back to Philadelphia. Eager to facilitate in any way he can, Franny gets Luke a prestigious position at his now-completed children’s wing of the hospital, pays off Luke’s student loan, and buys the

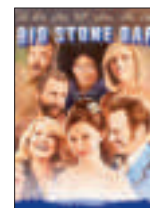


pair the suburban house that Olivia grew up in. But Franny has also become addicted to pain-killing morphine—and Luke refuses to refill his prescription. Writer-director Andrew Renzi’s nightmarish addiction parable is a clunky melodrama laced with clichés and so many implausible plot holes that even Gere’s legendary silver-fox charm cannot fill them all. Not a necessary purchase. (S. Granger)

Big Stone Gap ★★1/2

Universal, 103 min., PG-13, DVD: \$26.98, Blu-ray: \$29.98

Adriana Trigiani, author of the 2000 bestselling novel *Big Stone Gap*, here directs her own adaptation. Trigiani drew from her personal background, so it comes as a bit of a surprise that the film feels as if she spliced *Fried Green Tomatoes* with *Moonstruck* for the ultimate quirky Southern-Italian romantic comedy. Ashley Judd makes the most of her role as Ave Maria, a 40-year-old pharmacist living in rural Virginia in 1978. With the exception of her friends, who include Iva Lou (Jenna Elfman) and Spec (Anthony LaPaglia), the townspeople consider Ave an old maid, but she doesn’t lack for male companionship. It’s just that her beau, Theodore (John Benjamin Hickey)—who helps her put on the annual historical pageant—would rather commit to the theater than to marriage. And there’s another more suitable man in *Big Stone Gap*: coal miner Jack (Patrick Wilson), but for reasons that come across more as dramatic contrivances than genuine obstacles, Ave and Jack have trouble expressing their feelings for each other. After Ave’s mother dies, she discovers a secret about her parentage that changes her relationship to the town, but Jack and his mother, Nan (Judith Ivey), do everything they can to encourage Ave to stay just as she’s planning to leave. Although a bit familiar and clichéd, the fine cast still makes this a strong optional purchase. (K. Fennessy)



Black Mountain Side

★★1/2

Monarch, 99 min., not rated, DVD: \$24.95

The Thing—an Arctic sci-fi thriller made three times (1951, 1982, and 2011)—is the obvious inspiration for Nick Szostakiwskyj’s tale of a scientific expedition in northern Canada that discovers the tip of a massive stone monument that appears to bear Mesoamerican markings. Archeologist Piers Olsen (Michael Dickson), who is flown in to investigate, argues that this is impossible, but the team led by Myles Jensen (Shane Twerdun) disagrees, although the dispute quickly takes a backseat to strange goings-on at the outpost. A pet cat is sacrificed by someone at the monument, and the native workers leave in the dead of night despite the



fact that they are unlikely to survive the trek back to their village in subzero temperatures. Cut off from civilization after the radio conks out, the staff members begin to show signs of paranoia and even possession, hearing strange voices urging them to violent acts. Is this hallucination, or the power of an ancient god? Some also fall victim to diseases possibly caused by bacteria that has been frozen for thousands of years. *Black Mountain Side* sports an intriguing premise, but is hobbled by a modest budget—the few effects are fairly primitive—and frequently amateurish performances. On the other hand, Szostakowski exhibits considerable skill in building an unsettling mood, which for some will compensate for the silly ending. A strong optional purchase. (F. Swietek)

The Blue Hour ★★★

Strand, 97 min., in Thai w/ English subtitles, not rated, DVD: \$24.99

What begins as a run-of-the-mill story about an ostracized gay teen finding comfort in a new romance morphs here into a much more unpredictable tale of questionable reality and madness, with gothic elements. Tam (Atthaphan Poonsawas) is a Thai high school kid regularly bullied and bloodied at school. His home life isn't much better, thanks to an unsupportive martyr of a mother, a cruel older brother, and a threatening dad. Tam finds understanding in the company and arms of Phum (Oabnithi Wiwattanawarang), another boy he meets online for sexual hookups. *The Blue Hour* co-writer and director Anucha Boonyawatana serves up the expected sex scene, but the film takes a decided turn to the weird when Phum brings Tam to a garbage dump one night and explains that the land beneath was stolen from his family. The boys think they could live together on that land one day, but strange forces seem to be at work: corpses are hidden beneath the trash, and something is moving creepily below the debris. An abandoned swimming pool where the duo first met is similarly haunted, with bloodied bodies tucked into shadows. Boonyawatana blurs the line between the real and the imagined in this film that crosses genre boundaries, featuring ghosts along with a sympathetic portrait of a tormented gay teen. Recommended. (T. Keogh)



The Boy ★1/2

Universal, 98 min., PG-13, DVD: \$29.98, Blu-ray: \$34.98, May 10

This creepy story begins when a young, emotionally vulnerable American named Greta Evans (Lauren Cohan) arrives in an unknown town in England to apply for a nanny position. A car picks her



up and takes her to a sprawling mansion situated in the middle of a forest. Elderly Mr. and Mrs. Heelshire (Jim Norton, Diana Hardcastle) greet Greta cordially and introduce her to their 8-year-old son, Brahms—an extraordinarily realistic-looking porcelain doll. It seems that the real Brahms died in a house fire 20 years ago, and caring for this life-sized doll has become their coping mechanism. "Whatever it might look like on the outside, our son is here. He's very much with us," Greta is told. Seeing delusional Mrs. Heelshire cuddling the doll triggers a sympathetic reaction in Greta, who agrees to take the nanny position, caring for Brahms while the Heelshires travel on an extended holiday. Greta is given a strict set of detailed rules about how to treat Brahms. Stashing the doll in a corner after the Heelshires depart, Greta soon becomes romantically involved with local grocer Malcolm (Rupert Evans), who tells her that Brahms once had a young girlfriend who vanished after a playdate, and he was implicated as her killer. Greta next hears childish laughter, along with spooky footsteps. Her jewelry and clothing start to disappear, and the Brahms doll turns up in odd places, as Greta herself becomes more and more paranoid. Directed by William Brent Bell, *The Boy* is familiar fare that only evokes memories of far-better films such as *Child's Play* and *Poltergeist*. Not a necessary purchase. (S. Granger)

Cartel Land ★★★

Paramount, 100 min., R, DVD: \$29.99

Inspired by an investigative article in *Rolling Stone*, this chilling, compelling documentary revolves around recent battles between drug cartels and two vigilante groups along the Arizona/Mexico border. In the Mexican state of Michoacán, Dr. José Manuel Mireles, known as "El Doctor," leads the Autodefensas—a citizen's militia—against the ruthless Knights Templar cartel that has threatened the region for years. At the same time, in Arizona's 52-mile-long Altar Valley—known as Cocaine Alley—Tim "Nailer" Foley heads up Arizona Border Recon, a small paramilitary group whose goal is to stop Mexico's drug wars from seeping into the United States. "They're terrorizing their own country," Foley says, "and now they're starting to do it over here." Intrepid filmmaker Matthew Heineman captures disturbing footage and images (of shootouts, brutal torture, interrogations at gunpoint, and severed heads) in this Oscar nominee for Best Documentary that illustrates how people with good intentions of fighting evil can cross the line when they take the law into their own hands. Recommended. [Note: this is available with public performance rights for \$95 for public libraries and \$295 for colleges



and universities from Ro*co Films Educational, www.rocoeducational.com.] (S. Granger)

Censored Voices

★★★1/2

Music Box, 87 min., in Hebrew w/English subtitles, not rated, DVD: \$29.95

The 1967 Six-Day War between Israel and an Arab coalition that included Egypt, Jordan, and Syria was somewhat miraculously won by Israel. The nation celebrated, but a week after victory was declared, two young veterans of the battle—Amos Oz, today a famous author, and Avraham Shapira, an editor—went on a tour of kibbutzim (community settlements) to record interviews with fellow soldiers. Some of that material made its way into Shapira's subsequent book *The Seventh Day*, but most of it was censored by the Israeli military. *Censored Voices* presents, for the first time, much of what was squelched, and does so in a quiet but powerful way. Filmmaker Mor Loushy found some of these veterans and asked them to listen to their younger selves in the 1967 recordings. The grim, mournful looks on their faces speak volumes as they hear themselves not only talk about the horror of the fight but also question the morality and wisdom of seizing control of Gaza, Golan, the West Bank, and Jerusalem. Looking into the future, many wonder about the long-term consequences of Israel turning into an occupying force in civilian territories, driving Arabs from their homes to refugee camps, and killing the unarmed. One soldier asks, what was the point of making Arabs hate us more? Another wonders if Israel is doomed to fight wars with its neighbors every 10 years. Regardless of how individual viewers feel about these issues—or contemporary debates about Israel's security—it is stunning to hear these young men reflect on their then-recent war experiences. Highly recommended. (T. Keogh)



CodeGirl ★★★

Kino Lorber, 107 min., in English, Portuguese, Spanish & French w/English subtitles, not rated, DVD: \$24.95

Lesley Chilcott's documentary centers on the 2015 Technovation Challenge, in which 5,000 girls from around the world use technology to solve a problem. Each year, six semifinalists travel to San Francisco to compete for the top prize. Team United Smart Girls from Moldova were inspired to enter because a Moldovan team won in 2014. They've designed an app that points users to volunteer opportunities in the community. Team Psych-Os from Anaheim has also designed an app geared towards volunteerism; to confirm that they're on the right track, the girls seek input from non-prof-



it organizations, like Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Team Tech Voca in Mexico—who also competed the year before—made an app that provides resources for victims of domestic violence. Blanca, their mentor, says that their school hasn't been very supportive, because they expect girls to pursue more feminine endeavors. Team iFrench from San Francisco has an app that allows people to exchange unwanted items. All four groups make pitch videos, draft business plans, and create an app prototype. Out of 300 high school teams, only 44 semifinalists remain after the first round of judging—with three of the four here eliminated—so Chilcott shifts her focus to competitors from Andover, Brazil, and Nigeria. Although the foreign-language speakers are at a distinct disadvantage (since pitches must be made in English), a non-American team eventually emerges triumphant in this optimistic take on women's future in tech. Recommended. (K. Fennessy)

Coffee, Kill Boss ★★

Dreamscape, 96 min., not rated, DVD: \$24.99

A well-intended if somewhat tedious dark comedy, filmmaker Nathan Marshall's *Coffee, Kill Boss* is set in the offices of a corporation on a day when the acquisition of the company looms large. With executives positioned to become very wealthy through the merger, it's important that nothing goes wrong. Naturally, this makes a string of murders in the boardroom terribly inconvenient, as company bosses start dropping one by one, making the secret killer clearly one of the dwindling number of survivors. Unfortunately, a winning premise suffers in the execution, as the comedy becomes more frantic and silly rather than smart and ironic. The capable cast includes the great Robert Forster, Eddie Jemison, Noureen DeWulf, and Zibby Allen, who are forced by the script to deliver over-the-top performances. Optional. (T. Keogh)



Coming Home ★★★

Sony, 109 min., in Mandarin w/ English subtitles, PG-13, DVD: \$20.95, Blu-ray: \$34.99

Acclaimed Chinese filmmaker Zhang Yimou reunites with his initial muse, Gong Li (*Ju Dou*), for the first time in two decades for this drama illustrating the human devastation of China's Cultural Revolution. Gong plays Feng, a teacher whose husband Lu (Chen Daoming) has been imprisoned for unnamed crimes. When he is finally released after decades, she doesn't recognize him, no matter what he does to jog her memory. So he becomes her loyal companion, reading aloud the letters that he wrote while in prison (unsent at the time, they arrive all at once in a crate) and accompanying her to



the train station to await the return of her "husband." Meanwhile, he also repairs the relationship between Feng and their daughter (Zhang Huiwen), once a promising ballet dancer whose career was halted by her father's imprisonment. *Coming Home* is a touching story of two people in love who can never be truly together again thanks to the scars left by the Cultural Revolution. Zhang directs with a quiet intimacy that focuses on the devotion, regret, and commitment of the characters, and the film benefits from a nuanced performance by Gong. Recommended. (S. Axmaker)

Concussion ★★½

Sony, 123 min., PG-13, DVD: \$26.99, Blu-ray: \$34.99

Will Smith delivers a superb performance as real-life forensic neuropathologist Dr. Bennet Omalu, who identified the brain disorder known as chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) in pro football players, and thereby alienated the National Football League. In 2002, Omalu—a gentle, soft-spoken Nigerian immigrant with multiple medical degrees—detects evidence of trauma damage in the brain of former Pittsburgh Steeler "Iron Mike" Webster (David Morse), who died at the age of 50. Soon afterwards, he finds similar signs in the brains of other deceased players who suffered from mood swings, violent outbursts, and diminished comprehension. Tenacious Omalu believes that pro football players are routinely concussed hundreds of times during their careers; unfortunately, this observation can only be confirmed posthumously. When he and colleague Dr. Cyril Wecht (Albert Brooks) publish their research in a 2005 medical journal, NFL officials refute their conclusion, although a former team doctor (Alec Baldwin) reluctantly agrees. After being intimidated, harassed, and pursued, Omalu and his Kenya-born wife (Gugu Mbatha-Raw) are even threatened with deportation. Although NFL player Dave Duerson (Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje) testifies before Congress that there is no evidence of a connection between repetitive head trauma and brain injury, his own brain ultimately reveals evidence of CTE after he commits suicide in 2011. Unfortunately, writer-director Peter Landesman's *Concussion* is a one-note, workmanlike, and ploddingly-paced film. But Smith's fine turn makes this a strong optional purchase. (S. Granger)



Daddy's Home ★★

Paramount, 95 min., PG-13, DVD: \$29.99, Blu-ray/DVD Combo: \$39.99

This supposedly warm-hearted comedy from filmmaker Sean Anders stars Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg as rivals for the affections of two mop-



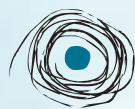
pets. Ferrell is their milquetoast stepdad Brad and Wahlberg is Dusty, the macho biological father who returns unexpectedly to make sure his kids don't bond with the new man in their life. *Daddy's Home* swiftly devolves into slapstick as Dusty uses every trick in the book to humiliate Brad in the kids' eyes, while Brad in turn tries vainly to one-up Dusty. But the children are portrayed as such obnoxious brats that one has to wonder whether the dad who wins them over will be the real victor. Even worse, there's a raunchy subplot involving Brad's infertility—the result of an accident with a dental x-ray machine—that introduces some sleazy humor involving testicles and sperm that seems out of place for a family flick (more or less). Of course, Brad and Dusty will eventually join together for the benefit of the kids. Mostly pedestrian in conception and execution when it is not being downright offensive, this is an optional purchase, at best. (F. Swietek)

Deadpool ★★★

Fox, 108 min., R, DVD: \$29.98, Blu-ray/DVD Combo: \$39.99, May 10

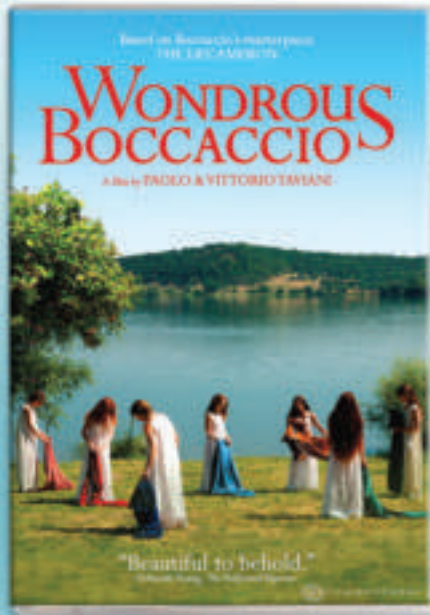
After previous attempts to embody a comic-book character—in DC's ill-fated *Green Lantern* and *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*—actor Ryan Reynolds finally scores with brash, brazen military mercenary Wade Wilson, who falls wildly in love with a bitter, wise-cracking hooker named Vanessa Carlyle (Morena Baccarin). Their short-lived romantic tryst is rudely interrupted when Wade is diagnosed with a late-stage, incurable cancer and then tricked by sadistic scientist Ajax (Ed Skrein) into a painful transformation (via injected mutant genes) to become the facially disfigured yet indestructible anti-hero Deadpool, dressed in form-fitting red-and-black spandex with white fabric covering his eyes. With the help of his bartender buddy (T.J. Miller) at a dive called Sister Margaret's Home for Wayward Girls and encouragement from his blind landlady (Leslie Uggams), Deadpool is determined to wreak revenge. Made from a long-gestating, slyly sardonic screenplay, *Deadpool* is irreverently directed by Tim Miller, who opens the film with cheeky, self-conscious credits and breaks the fourth wall by having cynical Deadpool talk directly to the audience. Trying to cajole him into joining their mutant clan, two of Marvel's X-Men—towering CGI-created Colossus (Stefan Kapici) and sullen Negasonic Teenage Warhead (Brianna Hildebrand)—show up, but Deadpool notes that they were all the studio could afford (except, of course, for Marvel's Stan Lee in a funny cameo). The rare for superhero movies R-rating is due to raunchy language, lewd nudity, and a ludicrous amount of bone-crunching comic-book violence. Scornful, satirical, and surprisingly snarky, this is recommended. (S. Granger)





FILM MOVEMENT®

Award-Winning Cinema Since 2002



EAST JERUSALEM / WEST JERUSALEM

Featuring David Broza, Steve Earle, Muhammad Mughrabi, Mira Awad and many more

Israeli singer-songwriter David Broza sets out to realize his dream of cooperation and dialog between Israelis and Palestinians through music.

Documentary, Jewish, Music, Religion/Spirituality, Conflict Resolution

DVD only: \$24.95 / PPR: \$200

DRL: \$499 / PPR + DRL: \$599

UPC: 857692005659

WONDROUS BOCCACCIO

An evocative new take on *The Decameron* from the Taviani Brothers

Ten young men and women escape plague-stricken Florence for a countryside estate where they regale each other with bawdy tales of love, destiny and desire.

Italian, Literature, Romance, Religion/Spirituality

DVD only: \$24.95 / PPR: \$200

DRL: \$499 / PPR + DRL: \$599

UPC: 857692005604



THE BEST INTENTIONS*

WINNER PALME D'OR
1992 CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

"Superb entertainment...
immensely pleasurable,
a romantic experience" —*The Village Voice*

Swedish master Ingmar Bergman penned this loving tribute to his parent's epic romance, following a poor, idealistic theology student who falls in love with the daughter of a rich Uppsala family.

Classics, Scandinavian, Romance,
Religion/Spirituality

DVD only: \$24.95 / PPR: \$200

DRL: \$499 / PPR + DRL: \$599

UPC: 857692005246

NEW 2K DIGITAL RESTORATION

*Also Available on Blu-ray™ featuring the bonus Ingmar Bergman 1984 short film "Karin's Face" (never-before-available in North America)



FILM MOVEMENT
CLASSICS



INDIVIDUAL TITLES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE WITH PPR AND DRL.

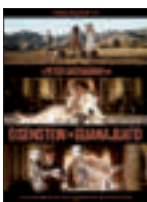
TO SUBSCRIBE OR LEARN MORE, contact **Maxwell Wolkin**

maxwell@filmmovement.com • 212.941.7744 x211 • filmmovement.com/libraries

Eisenstein in Guanajuato

★★★1/2

Strand, 105 min., in English & Spanish w/English subtitles, not rated, DVD: \$27.99, May 10



Legendary Russian filmmaker Sergei Eisenstein's trip to Mexico in the early 1930s is cinema lore. Following an unsuccessful flirtation with Charles Chaplin and his United Artists cohorts in Hollywood, Eisenstein (Elmer Bäck) left the U.S. for Mexico to shoot a picture funded by author Upton Sinclair (*The Jungle*). In Mexico, Eisenstein stalled and hobnobbed with artists Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo, while Stalin called the filmmaker a deserter and pressured him to return to the U.S.S.R. Despite hiring hundreds of Mexican soldiers, Eisenstein left the country without a finished film after Sinclair shuttered the production. The discovery of pornography and "blasphemous" imagery in Eisenstein's luggage at the U.S./Mexico border adds extra juice to this dramatic story that was ripe for film adaptation. Here, filmmaker Peter Greenaway's bio-pic chronicles the behind-the-scenes shenanigans, paying particular attention to the rumored affair that Eisenstein had with his male Mexican guide, all the while displaying the director's trademark extravagant flourishes. Over-the-top in every regard—bursting with exaggerated and near-farical performances, hyper-sexuality, Technicolor hues, and shots that sometimes shift into triptych or morph like liquid—the film also features interwoven archival footage from Eisenstein's films *Strike*, *Battleship Potemkin*, and *October*, as well as clips of the filmmaker and other real-life historical players. The cumulative effect is a bit of a cinematic trainwreck, but a beautiful, mesmerizing one that film buffs will appreciate. A strong optional purchase. (P. Morehart)

Embrace of the Serpent

★★★1/2

Oscilloscope, 125 min., in Spanish w/English subtitles, not rated, DVD: \$34.99, Blu-ray: \$39.99, June 21



Nominated for Best Foreign Film, *Embrace of the Serpent* serves up a meditation on colonialism's devastation of the Cohanayo, one of Colombia's indigenous tribes, who were brutally ravaged by the rubber industry and Roman Catholic missionaries in the 19th and 20th centuries. Set on the Amazon River, the story focuses on Karamakate, a native shaman who is played alternately by Nilbio Torres and Antonio Bolívar Salvador. Angry and grieving, Karamakate is the sole survivor of his people and over a 40-year period he develops a relationship with two different scientists. Filmed primarily in luminous black-and-white, Colombian writer-director

Ciro Guerra's film is based on the real-life journals of two explorers who traveled through Amazonia during the last century. From 1903-09, German ethnologist Theodor Koch-Grünberg (Jan Bijvoet) journeys by canoe, seeking the sacred Yakruna plant with its unique hallucinogenic and healing powers. Decades later, Richard Evans Schultes (Brionne Davis), an American botanist, retraces his predecessor's path. Their explorations and experiences are intertwined, as they discard their baggage—the accoutrements of so-called civilization—and return to a more primitive natural state. An enlightening and thought-provoking film that is also evocative, exotic, and surreal in its primal eloquence, this is highly recommended. (S. Granger)

Estranged

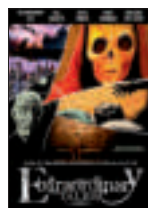
Well Go USA, 92 min., not rated, DVD: \$24.98, Blu-ray: \$29.99



Adam Levins's thriller centers on a young woman named January (Amy Manson), suffering from amnesia and serious physical injuries after a terrible motorcycle accident, who returns to her family's isolated estate with her boyfriend in hopes that the surroundings might jog her memory—although she can't recall why she left the place years before and has not been back since. The family proves to be a strange bunch, and she begins to wonder whether they really are her parents and siblings. The answer is revealed as her stern father, dotty mother, cynical brother, and jealous sister show their true colors (the fastidious butler also becomes increasingly agitated), and January's plight grows more and more desperate. The eventual convoluted explanation concerning the family's past proves to be more contorted than credible, but even though *Estranged* ultimately promises more than it manages to deliver, the story is told with considerable style, and Manson is compelling as a woman trapped in a situation that she only haltingly comes to understand. A strong optional purchase. (F. Swietek)

Extraordinary Tales

Cinedigm, 73 min., not rated, DVD: \$14.95, Blu-ray/DVD Combo: \$29.95



More of a tribute to the work of Edgar Allan Poe than an adaptation, this anthology of animated tales from filmmaker and Disney animator Raúl García presents digest-sized versions of five of Poe's most famous stories. Christopher Lee narrates "The Fall of the House of Usher," illustrated with images in a stylized look of folded paper creations. "The Tell-Tale Heart," inspired by the art of Argentine comic book artist Alberto Breccia (and resembling the stark style of the *Sin City* graphic novels and movies), is set to an old recording of Bela

Lugosi reading the story (with audio crackles intact). These two entries are the most interesting, thanks to the dramatic narration and strikingly stylized art, but the visuals are illustrations rather than cinematic expressions of the tales, and the subsequent stories are even less dramatically compelling. Julian Sands reads "The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar," which resembles a flat 1950s-era Classic Comics adaptation with animated panels; Guillermo del Toro narrates the first-person "The Pit and the Pendulum," with CGI animation that looks more like a video game than a movie; and the final story, "The Masque of the Red Death," is presented as practically wordless. Ultimately, the stories are truncated and the animation is functional, while the wrap-around sequence featuring a raven (representing the spirit of Poe) in conversation with a statue of death, is ineffective. While this is an affectionate tribute, there are much better adaptations of Poe's stories available. Optional. (S. Axmaker)

Fastball

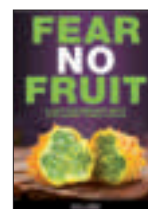
Kino Lorber, 86 min., not rated, DVD: \$29.95, Blu-ray: \$34.95, June 28



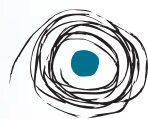
Kevin Costner narrates (and, yes, drops in a plug for *Bull Durham*) this slick, tightly focused dissertation on the fastball pitch in baseball. Among the many top names interviewed: Nolan Ryan, Rich "Goose" Gossage, Mike Schmidt, Hank Aaron, George Brett, Johnny Bench, Joe Morgan, and Ernie Banks (Banks died before the film was released), as well as a certain Steve Dalkowski, a minor-leaguer who was shaping up to be an extraordinary fastball phenom in 1963 when an arm injury ended his career. Filmmaker Jonathan Hock's sports documentary could also have crossover appeal for science-minded viewers, as it not only addresses the lore of the fastball pitch but also the physics and even the perceptual/neurological aspects of a baseball hurled at 95 mph (or greater) that is heading towards a batter. Also featured here is rare footage of Sandy Koufax pitching a legendary 1965 "perfect game" (striking out all the Chicago Cubs at Dodger Stadium), and a demonstration using modern technology to determine the fastest of three pitchers of legend: Walter Johnson, Bob Feller, and Nolan Ryan. Sure to be appreciated by fans of the Great American Pastime (admittedly a disputed title today), this is recommended. (C. Cassidy)

Fear No Fruit

Kino Lorber, 97 min., not rated, DVD: \$24.95

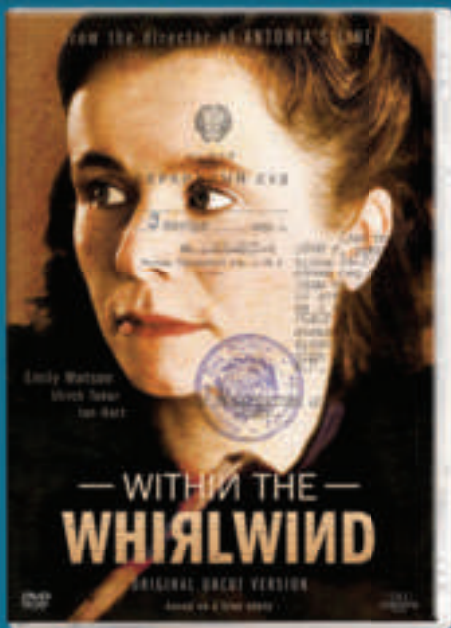


It's hard to imagine a time when mushrooms, kiwi-fruit, alfalfa sprouts, shal-lots, and spaghetti squash weren't grocery store sta-



FILM MOVEMENT®

Award-Winning Cinema Since 2002



"Emily Watson's stunning, all consuming performance sweeps all before it in a virtuoso interpretation of courage under fire." –Variety

Directed by

MARLEEN GORRIS (*Antonia's Line*)

Starring

EMILY WATSON (*Breaking the Waves*)

Based on the true story of Yevgenia Ginzburg, a young woman who spends 18 years of her life in the gulag in Siberia during Stalin's reign of terror. Having lost everything, and no longer wishing to live, she meets the camp doctor and begins to come back to life.

WITHIN THE WHIRLWIND

Russian, Human Rights, Women Directors

DVD only: \$24.95 / PPR: \$200

DRL: \$499 / PPR + DRL: \$599

UPC: 896137001191



"Fascinating... as far as boxing stories go, *Klitschko* is anything but typical"

–The Huffington Post

INCLUDES NEVER-BEFORE-SEEN FOOTAGE OF TRAINING PREPARATIONS AND SPECTACULAR BOXING MATCHES

Revealing the story of the boxing world's most famous brothers: Vitali and Wladimir Klitschko, this captivating documentary explores the two champions' humble beginnings in the Ukraine, their rise to stardom and domination of heavyweight prize fighting.

KLITSCHKO

Russian, Documentary, Sports

DVD only: \$24.95 / PPR: \$200

DRL: \$499 / PPR + DRL: \$599

UPC: 896137001153



"A haunting documentary reveals the most beautiful, and tragic, of Andy Warhol's superstars." –Entertainment Weekly

FEATURING CHLOE SEVIGNY AS THE VOICE OF CANDY DARLING PLUS INTERVIEWS WITH JOHN WATERS, FRAN LEBOWITZ, JULIE NEWMAR AND MORE

Recapturing the excitement of a long lost New York City, *Beautiful Darling* tells the story of transgender pioneer Candy Darling, a star in the constellation that was Andy Warhol's Factory, and one of the inspirations for the Lou Reed song "Walk on the Wild Side."

BEAUTIFUL DARLING

Documentary, LGBT

DVD only: \$24.95 / PPR: \$200

DRL: \$499 / PPR + DRL: \$599

UPC: 896137001115



INDIVIDUAL TITLES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE WITH PPR AND DRL.

TO SUBSCRIBE OR LEARN MORE, contact Maxwell Wolkin

maxwell@filmmovement.com • 212.941.7744 x211 • filmmovement.com/libraries

ples. But as recently as the late 1950s, these commonplace foods were considered exotic delicacies and rarely stocked on supermarket shelves. Frieda Caplan changed that. While working at the Los Angeles Wholesale Produce Market in the 1960s, Caplan took risks by importing foods from around the world to the U.S. market and—through tenacity and marketing genius—made them appealing to American buyers. Striking out on her own after her initial success, Caplan became the first woman to found, own, and operate a wholesale produce company in the U.S.—running a business that introduced more than 200 new fruits and vegetables to the country, most notably Chinese gooseberries, which took the nation by storm in the 1960s after Caplan renamed it kiwi. Filmmaker Mark Brian Smith's fascinating documentary chronicling Caplan's life and influential career features interviews with 91-year-old Caplan, her two daughters (who currently run the company), and other culinary luminaries who talk about Caplan's considerable impact on American cuisine over a course of 50 years. The scope of her reach and forethought is staggering, a point particularly made during a segment that rolls out all of the foods Caplan championed during her career. Without Caplan, the American palate would be significantly blander. Equally impressive is Caplan's role as a trailblazing feminist who rose to the top of a then-male dominated profession and changed it forever. Highly recommended. (P. Morehart)

Finding Gastón ★★★

Film Movement, 79 min., in Spanish w/English subtitles, not rated, DVD: \$24.95

As foodie documentaries go, *Finding Gastón* is atypically calm and upbeat, with no moments of explosive tempers in the kitchen or cooking disasters that must be quickly rectified. The subject is Gastón Acurio, a world-renowned Peruvian chef with a number of restaurants spread around the globe, a man seen in his native country as something of a savior for national culture and identity. The son of a famous politician, Acurio was expected to enter law and go on to great things in government life. Instead, he attended culinary school and then moved to France to study further. Returning home with new wife Astrid Gutsche (originally from Germany), the couple opened their first restaurant with an accent on French cuisine. Gradually, Acurio devoted himself to exploring new frontiers in Peruvian cooking (which was already open to international influences), while drawing upon Peru's own crops and seafood. Much of the film is devoted to Acurio meeting with the men and women who work hard as farmers and supply him with quinoa and potatoes, as well as those selling fresh catches at outdoor

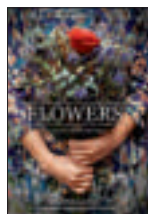


markets. A seemingly mature figure who does not treat his students like punching bags, Acurio is seen critiquing and advising those learning from him with a mix of straightforward advice and humor. Likewise, a culinary school he runs for young people in need of vocational training receives his hands-on attention and generous spirit. As for the dozens of appetizing dishes presented here, viewers will certainly be hungry by the end of the film. Recommended. (T. Keogh)

Flowers ★★★

Music Box, 97 min., in Basque w/English subtitles, not rated, DVD: \$29.95

A simple but compelling mystery makes filmmakers Jon Garaño and Jose Mari Goenaga's *Flowers*—Spain's official Oscar entry last year—an irresistible character study, especially when the story's core enigma suddenly shifts from one person to another. Ane (Nagore Aranburu), an office worker at a construction firm, is in her early 40s but is experiencing menopause. Just when she's feeling old before her time, Ane begins receiving weekly flowers from an unknown source. Although this secret admirer is causing her husband anxiety, Ane privately basks in the attention, pulling her into a more secretive, withdrawn life. Eventually, she learns the sender's identity, and her subsequent actions cause several kinds of alarm in that person's family. *Flowers* loses some of its riveting appeal once the cat is out of the bag, as the narrative shifts focus to such universal matters as secrets, lies, grudges, and forgiveness among parents and children, spouses, etc. But before that the film serves up a good riddle. Recommended. (T. Keogh)



The Forbidden Room

★★★

Kino Lorber, 119 min., not rated, DVD: \$29.95, Blu-ray: \$34.95

Guy Maddin has been making strange, surreal films that evoke the images and storytelling traditions of silent movies for decades. *The Forbidden Room*, co-directed with his former student Evan Johnson, plays like a compendium of his obsessions. It opens with the mock-instructional film "How to Take a Bath," shifts to a submarine trapped at the bottom of the sea where a lumberjack (Roy Dupuis) inexplicably appears and tells his story of a feral forest adventure and a damsel in distress, moves to an exotic nightclub out of an old Hollywood movie, and so on. The film arose from a pair of museum installations (in Montreal and Paris) where Maddin "remade" lost films and unfinished projects from the silent and early sound era, so this is a collection of scenes and movie



clichés reworked with campy exaggeration and absurd, cartoonish twists. Made with a minimal budget—using a production design that favors ingenuity and creativity—the cast includes such major European actors as Geraldine Chaplin, Mathieu Amalric, Udo Kier, and recent Oscar-nominee Charlotte Rampling. Maddin "ages" his films with scuffs and scratches and cracks and even distorts frames (suggesting decaying nitrate prints from the 1920s). The result defies logical explanation, let alone coherent description, but will likely appeal to fans of foreign film, silent movies, and performance art. Recommended. (S. Axmaker)

Frankenstein ★1/2

Alchemy, 89 min., R, DVD: \$19.99, Blu-ray: \$24.99

Mary Shelley's classic titular tale has inspired many screen treatments, some brilliant (most notably James Whale's 1931 version) and others dreadful (like 2014's atrocious *I, Frankenstein*). Filmmaker Bernard Rose's new take updates the story to present day with abysmal results. The low-budget, thoroughly unpleasant gorefest begins in what looks to be a basement passing for a chintzy hospital lab, where scientists Victor Frankenstein (Danny Huston) and his wife Marie (Carrie-Anne Moss) succeed in animating their creation (Xavier Samuel), an inarticulately childish and initially handsome young man, whose face begins to disintegrate into a welter of sores. Threatened with termination as an unsuccessful experiment, he escapes and causes much mayhem, lumbering about the city and killing several vicious policemen before making his way to his creators' apartment for a final confrontation. Rose includes variants of several episodes from the Whale film—notably the encounters with a cute little girl and a blind man—but he also comments (unfortunately, rather clumsily) on the sufferings of the homeless in a society in which wealth is unevenly distributed. Not recommended. (F. Swietek)



The Girl in the Book ★1/2

Monarch, 86 min., not rated, DVD: \$24.95

Award-winning director Marya Cohn graduates from short films to her first feature-length work with this emotional drama of a woman overcoming a myriad of inner demons. Emily VanCamp stars as Alice, a junior editor at a Manhattan publishing company. Frustrated by the dead end nature of her job—her editor boss ignores her opinions—and a severe writer's block that has kept her from pursuing her own literary career, Alice is also burdened by a dreadful relationship with her overbearing father (Michael Cristofer),



a famous retired literary agent. Things go from bad to worse when she is put in charge of the re-release of a novel from a writer (Michael Nyqvist) who seduced Alice when she was a teenager and turned the incident into a novel. *The Girl in the Book* is not short on emotional angst, although a thin side plot involving Alice's romantic flirtation with a handsome political activist seems to have been grafted on to offset the otherwise total dreariness. VanCamp does the best she can, but the material is often trite and the depiction of intellectual pomposity in the publishing world never truly feels genuine. Not a necessary purchase. (P. Hall)

The Great Invisible

★★★★1/2

Anchor Bay, 92 min., PG-13, DVD: \$19.98

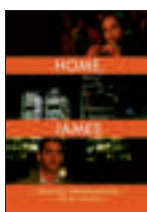
Filmmaker Margaret Brown conducts an inquest into the disaster of the April 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil-rig explosion/blowout in the Gulf of Mexico, a catastrophe that produced an oil slick the size of Rhode Island that would go on to smear beaches across Texas, Alabama, and Louisiana. Rather than just recapping the evening-news broadcasts, or adding to the public shaming of leasing company BP, or serving up images of ecological despair, Brown takes her camera to the people closest to ground zero. They include guilt-tortured surviving crew members of the rig, who received bonuses from BP to cut costs and violate safety protocols; fishermen whose livelihoods were destroyed by the oil spill and who now subsist on company payouts, and Gulf dwellers who are still spooning sticky masses of petrochemicals out of the water. Ironically, Deepwater Horizon was considered a showcase of modern "safe" drilling technology. Although one speaker says that the oil executives are not intrinsically bad people—just shortsighted and characteristically opposed to any regulations—the corporate picture that emerges here is damning. One cannot escape the verdict that no real lessons have been learned by a lobbyist-heavy and greedy oil industry. An ALA-VRT Notable Videos for Adults selection, this is highly recommended. [Note: this is available with public performance rights for \$95 for public libraries and \$295 for colleges and universities from Ro*co Films Educational, www.rocoeducational.com.] (C. Cassidy)



Home, James

★★★★
Dreamscape, 84 min., not rated, DVD: \$24.99

A low-key, budget-conscious independent drama, *Home, James* is a relationship tale involving a talented Tulsa-based photographer named James (Jonathan Rosetti, who

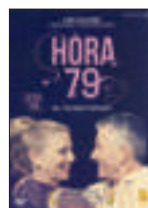


also co-wrote and directed the film) and a hard-drinking socialite, Cooper (Kerry Knuppe). Making some money at night by driving inebriated people home, James meets the drunken Cooper, and then bumps into her again at his neighborhood bar. Romance blooms despite competing objectives: James has been invited to exhibit at a gallery, while Cooper is planning to move to New York. James's disappointment over the relocation leads him into a downward spiral of alcoholic excess and a personality change, jeopardizing his prospects for career success. Although the story is simple, the film succeeds as character study, serving up closely-framed moments between individuals that capture a wide range of emotions. Recommended. (T. Keogh)

Hora '79

★★★★
SISU, 88 min., in Hebrew w/ English subtitles, not rated, DVD: \$24.95

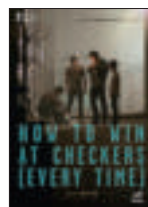
Israeli filmmaker Eli Cohen aims for bittersweet comedy with this engaging movie about a folk dancing troupe that reunites after 33 years. At their peak, the dancers were the finest exemplars of their craft, but the group broke up abruptly following a tragic incident, and its members not only mostly abandoned dance but also drifted apart. More than three decades later, a chance encounter between two troupe members starts a chain of events that reunites the dancers, ultimately placing them in the spotlight at a prominent folk dancing festival. Of course, the passage of 30-plus years has created more than a few physical and emotional challenges for the now-senior performers, and old animosities naturally resurface. Complicating matters is a rival dance company manager who would prefer to keep the troupe off the stage. *Hora '79* is not a terribly original work in the reunion-of-aging-frenemies genre, and a confused gay subplot seems to be tacked on haphazardly, but even with its flaws the film is consistently engaging and it showcases some excellent dancing. Recommended. (P. Hall)



How to Win at Checkers (Every Time)

★★★★
Wolfe, 80 min., in Thai w/ English subtitles, not rated, DVD: \$24.95

Based on a pair of short stories by novelist Rattawut Lapcharoensap, *How to Win at Checkers (Every Time)* is a tender and emotionally raw tale set in 1990s Bangkok. The rampant sex industry associated with that city during those years lies more on the margins of this drama, which centers on the awakening of an 11-year-old boy named Oat (Ingkarat "Ryu" Damrongsakkul) to the consequences of poverty, corruption, and crime on humble lives. An orphan living with



his aunt, Oat looks to his older brother, Ek (Thira Chutikul), to be a mentor and guide, but complicating matters is Ek's relationship with a boyfriend, Jai (Arthur Navarat), who comes from a wealthy family. Surrounded by privilege, Jai is protected from an upcoming draft lottery (perks not available to Ek). When Oat tries to help his brother improve the latter's chances in the lottery, his efforts backfire, making matters worse. Featuring strong performances, filmmaker Josh Kim's mesmerizing drama was Thailand's submission for Best Foreign Language Film. Recommended. (T. Keogh)

I Am Thor

★★★
Dark Sky, 84 min., not rated, DVD: \$24.98, Blu-ray: \$29.98

Canadian rocker Jon Miki Thor never hit the highest heights during his career, but *I Am Thor* celebrates his superhuman resilience. Director Ryan Wise starts with a fast-moving overview of Thor's career in the 1970s and 1980s before concentrating on a comeback that began in the 1990s. Thor, who grew up in Vancouver, started out as a bodybuilder, worked as a naked waiter, and formed a band with other bodybuilders. By this time, Thor was living in Los Angeles, where the group Body Rock segued to Thor and the Imps (because he dwarfed the other players) and then just Thor. Thor incorporated Marvel Comics superhero costume elements, and released records that found an audience, but management problems led to a lack of marketing and tour support, so Thor shifted to acting, but aside from a few cult films (such as *Rock 'n' Roll Nightmare*), opportunities dried up. The last straw came when he lost a part in *Adventures in Babysitting* to Vincent D'Onofrio (who looks almost exactly like Thor in the film with his blond wig and hammer). Afterwards, Thor settled down with his ex-cover-girl wife, Rusty, but after a decade in the suburbs, he decides to embark on his first real tour. Wise tags along for the next several years as Thor performs with new band members, occasionally hires replacement players, and records new material. No longer the muscle man of his youth, he suffers aches and pains, but gives fans a show filled with glam-metal music and circus strongman theatrics. Serving up an offbeat portrait of a determined artist, this is recommended. (K. Fennessy)



I Smile Back

★★★1/2
Broad Green, 85 min., R, DVD: \$26.99

A suburban mother (Sarah Silverman) struggles with substance abuse in director Adam Salky's downbeat adaptation of co-writer Amy Koppelman's titular 2008 novel. Laney (Silverman) lives with her insurance salesman



husband Bruce (Josh Charles) in upstate New York. When Laney stops taking lithium, she drowns her feelings of low self-worth in alcohol, cocaine, and an affair with her best friend Sue's restaurateur husband, Donny (Thomas Sadoski), who claims that he's preparing to leave his wife, although Laney doesn't believe him—nor does she seem to care. After a night of indulgence in which Laney engages in strange antics while her family is asleep, she decides she needs help, and checks into a rehab facility where she takes her meds and talks to a therapist (Terry Kinney) about the father (Chris Sarandon) who abandoned her. After returning home, Laney longs to drink, feels awkward around Donny, and notices that her sensitive son, Eli (Skylar Gaertner), has developed a twitch. She tries to get back into the swing of things, but the more she struggles, the more her husband pulls away. Although Silverman has appeared in dramas before, including Sarah Polley's *Take This Waltz*, this is her first dramatic leading role. But as good as she is, the film still feels like a rough draft, largely because Laney has no hobbies or ambitions, making her too much of a blank slate. Still, this should be considered a strong optional purchase. (K. Fennessy)

Jafar Panahi's Taxi

★★★1/2

Kino Lorber, 81 min., in Farsi w/English subtitles, not rated, DVD: \$29.95, Blu-ray: \$34.95

Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi was convicted of "anti-Islamic propaganda" for the social commentary found within his films and subsequently forbidden by the Iranian government in 2010 to make any more movies. *Taxi* is the third feature he's delivered since receiving the sentence and he is quite literally in the driver's seat of this guerilla film shot on the streets of Tehran, playing himself as a part-time cab driver in a friend's vehicle. It is filmed entirely on smartphones and dashboard cameras that never leave the cab but still constantly observe the world outside while also capturing conversations within. Panahi isn't much of a cabbie (a fact played for humor), but he is an engaging host and he prompts everyone who steps inside to converse about everything from movies to politics to the struggles of everyday life. Like many of his previous films, *Taxi* veers between documentary and drama, offering a sneaky, self-aware commentary on life in modern Iran that once again threads the needle of official policy while also drawing attention to censorship. Panahi flaunts his sentence with a gentle demeanor and easy smile that belie the very real consequences his defiance could bring down upon him. But the intelligence, humor, and sense of hope that Panahi communicates in the face of censorship also makes this an



engaging as well as important film. Highly recommended. (S. Axmaker)

Joy ★★

Fox, 124 min., PG-13, DVD: \$29.98, Blu-ray: \$39.99, May 3

Writer-director David O. Russell (*The Fighter*, *Silver Linings Playbook*, *American Hustle*) has garnered three Best Director and Best Picture nominations within four years. But this story of female entrepreneurship, reuniting Russell's favorite ensemble players—Jennifer Lawrence, Bradley Cooper, and Robert De Niro—simply misses the mark. From childhood, Joy Mangano (Oscar-nominee Lawrence) has been an inventor. Living with her musician ex-husband (Edgar Ramirez) and their children, she's a single mother trying to support her dysfunctional, extended family, including her soap-opera-obsessed mother (Virginia Madsen), cantankerous father (De Niro), resentful half-sister (Elisabeth Rohm), and beloved grandmother (Diane Ladd). While cleaning up spilled red wine, Joy has the idea for the self-wringing Miracle Mop: a simple device incorporating a plastic handle and a head made from a continuous loop of 300 feet of cotton. Determined to manufacture it, she convinces her father's wealthy new lover (Isabella Rossellini) to be her financial backer, eventually taking a prototype to TV's QVC, where she must convince a corporate executive (Cooper) to take a chance on her product. Scripted as a biopic, the story is awkwardly told and unevenly paced, while Lawrence seems to barely relate to the real-life Mangano as she tenaciously grapples with one obstacle after another in her determination to achieve the American Dream. Optional. (S. Granger)



Kill or Be Killed ★★1/2

RLJ, 104 min., not rated, DVD: \$27.98

Part horror gorefest and part spaghetti Western, *Kill or Be Killed* is audacious and imaginative, although its substance can be debated. In the Old West, the vile Claude "Sweet Tooth" Barbee and his outlaw gang plan to recover hidden loot from a railroad heist. But having the law chasing after them turns out to be the least of their concerns: something much more disturbing is on their tail. Writer-directors Justin Meeks (who also stars as Barbee) and Duane Graves deserve kudos for serving up something different in their unlikely mix of genres. The story moves at a swift pace, while the production design mostly captures the grimy aspects of a decidedly unglamorous cowboy existence. And it's fun to see horror icons Michael Berryman (*The Hills Have Eyes*) and Edwin Neal (*The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*) in small roles here. Unfortunately, some



of the lackluster CGI effects call attention to the film's low budget, and the story eventually detours into relentless violence that can grow tiresome. Still, this should be considered a strong optional purchase. (P. Hall)

Killing Them Safely

★★★1/2

MPI, 95 min., not rated, DVD: \$24.99

This deeply-researched work of investigative journalism focuses on Taser International, a company run by brothers Rick and Tom Smith, who in the 1990s took a Taser prototype built in 1969 and turned it into an effective weapon for incapacitating people using an electrical charge. Filmmaker Nick Berardini is given considerable access to the Smiths and the inner sanctum of the company's operation. But after getting viewers up to speed about what a Taser actually is and does—and why police departments universally praise the device (it's a quicker and safer way of subduing a violent or uncooperative suspect than drawing a gun)—the other shoe drops. Namely, no government oversight exists for Tasers, which law enforcement chose to heavily invest in (there are over a half-million Tasers in police hands in the U.S.), largely due to the company's guarantee that those shot would experience no permanent damage. That turns out to be untrue: *Killing Them Safely* offers footage from a number of dashboard cams and other security cameras demonstrating that Tasers do, in fact, kill some people. Mounting anecdotal evidence and independent research both confirm that Tasers can have a lethal impact on body chemistry and the nervous system. Making matters worse, most police officers are not trained to recognize symptoms of suspects who might be dying after being Tasered. Police officers, scientists, psychologists, and family of Taser victims speak here about the weapon's checkered record, while the Smiths participate in a video deposition, staying entirely on-message throughout. A thought-provoking exposé, this is highly recommended. (T. Keogh)



King of Herring ★★1/2

Dreamscape, 81 min., not rated, DVD: \$24.99

Actor Eddie Jemison co-wrote and co-directed this ambitious relationship drama, which comes across like a Tennessee Williams play being directed by legendary independent filmmaker John Cassavetes. Jemison plays lowlife Ditch, a loudmouth who wastes his days in the company of fellow idlers Gat (David Jensen), the Professor (Joe Chrest), and Leon (Wayne P  re). Set in a grimy, broken-down section of New Orleans, the loose story finds the four men splitting into



Breaking Glass Pictures

AVAILABLE AT
FINE DISTRIBUTORS
EVERYWHERE



NATIONAL THEATRICAL RELEASE

À LA VIE (To Life)

ARTHOUSE JEWISH DRAMA

AVAILABLE
JUNE 7th **\$24.99**
SRP

(French) 15 years after surviving the atrocities of Auschwitz - Hélène, Lili and Rose are reunited for a beach vacation. There they can finally close the doors on their past demons and celebrate the true joys of life. Beautiful and moving. Based on true events.

Starring Suzanne Clément, Julie Depardieu, and Johanna ter Steege



PRINCESS

PROVOCATIVE THRILLER FROM ISRAEL

AVAILABLE
MAY 24th **\$24.99**
SRP

(Hebrew) While her mother is at work, Adar and her step-father push their role-playing games into dangerous territory. When she meets & brings Alan - a dreamy boy who resembles her - into their home, reality and fantasy begin to blur, with alarming results. Edgy and disturbing.

Huge Fest sensation which debuted at the Sundance Film Festival



GODLESS

NEW CONTROVERSIAL LGBT DRAMA

AVAILABLE
MAY 17th **\$24.99**
SRP

After their father passes, Nate moves in with his mother and Steven continues his studies elsewhere. When Mom dies in an accident, Steven returns for her funeral. The brothers reconnect, but a past secret threatens to destroy them. Forbidden love among brothers!

From the acclaimed Director of
The Seminarian.



HELICOPTER MOM

TEEN COMEDY WITH AN LGBT FLARE!

AVAILABLE
MAY 10th **\$24.99**
SRP

The overbearing mother of a sexually confused teenager tells everyone that he's gay and submits an application on his behalf for a college scholarship for LGBT students. A heart-warming comedy with the charismatic star of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*.

Starring Nia Vardalos, Skyler Samuels, Jason Dolley, and Mark Boone Junior



CRUSH THE SKULL

THRILLING NEW HORROR COMEDY

AVAILABLE
MAY 17th **\$24.99**
SRP

A group of master thieves find themselves trapped in a house they intended to rob, only to discover they have inadvertently wandered into the lair of a deranged serial killer. Forced now to navigate his sadistic torture den, will they survive?

Voted Best Feature at the
San Diego Asian Film Festival



DEADMAN APOCALYPSE

UNDERGROUND ACTION THRILLER!

AVAILABLE
JUNE 14th **\$24.99**
SRP

Jack Deadman is the final hope to save our dying earth from the apocalypse. He exists in isolation, trapped and buried deep within Labyrinthia. His quest for vengeance and redemption is the last attempt to escape from the underground.

Indie Film in the vein of the
Mad Max franchise!



For more information please contact Richard Ross at ross@bgpics.com

Visit us at bgpics.com

two sets of adversaries over Ditch's unpaid \$9 debt to the Professor. This trivial conflict seems to rip apart a thin veneer that exposes each man's desperation, fear, and anger over an unfulfilled life. Ditch may not have the animal magnetism of Stanley Kowalski in Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire*, but his explosive brutality causes the Professor to strike back by making a seductive play for Ditch's housebound, much-ignored wife, Mary (Laura Lamson). Meanwhile, Gat's curious sexual pursuits put him on a collision course with Ditch, and Leon—a throat cancer survivor—loses his electronic voice box, becoming the story's mute fool, observing all of the goings-on while in visible distress. The film sadly loses steam after the initial setup, but there are nice touches along the way, especially a couple of scenes involving Mary and her sister-in-law, Evie (Andrea Frankle), regarding a wedding dress. A strong optional purchase. (T. Keogh)

The Lady in the Van

★★★

Sony, 104 min., PG-13, DVD: \$26.99, Blu-ray: \$34.99

Dame Maggie Smith stars in Alan Bennett's adaptation of his West End play, which is based on his own bestselling memoir. After Bennett reluctantly befriended Mary Shepherd in 1974, the eccentric British bag lady "temporarily" parked her dilapidated van in his driveway and lived there for the next 15 years, explaining that the Virgin Mary advised it. Here, celebrated London playwright/screenwriter/actor/author Bennett is played by Alex Jennings in a dual role: the Alan Bennett who writes and the Alan Bennett who observes and probes for truth. He engages in a long-running debate with himself about how to handle the increasingly decrepit, demanding Shepherd (Smith), who smells of urine, feces, raw onions, and talcum powder. "One seldom was able to do her a good turn," he observes, "without some thoughts of strangulation." Bennett is also dealing with his mother, who is suffering from dementia. Later, Bennett will learn Shepherd's secret—she is technically guilty of a felony. A fervent Catholic, guilt-riddled Shepherd often confesses this sin to a priest who repeatedly absolves her, explaining: "Absolution is not like the bus pass. It doesn't run out." Director Nicholas Hytner's touching, "mostly true" character study also features cameos by veteran British thespians Roger Allam, Jim Broadbent, and Frances de la Tour, as well as *Late Late Show* host James Corden. Whimsical and poignant, this is a fine showcase for Smith as the filthy, self-centered vagrant. Recommended. (S. Granger)

Legend ★★1/2

Universal, 132 min., R, DVD: \$22.98, Blu-ray: \$26.98

Tom Hardy manages an acting tour de

force here, playing twins in Brian Helgeland's film about Reggie and Ron Kray, Cockney crooks who became celebrities in London during the Swinging Sixties. The brothers' criminal careers were previously covered in Peter Medak's 1990 *The Krays* (played by siblings Gary and Martin Kemp), a full biography that emphasized the baleful influence of their mother. *Legend* covers less historical ground, beginning with the Krays already in business and concentrating on their expansion from the East End to tonier areas of the city, as they take out their main competition and strike a partnership with the American mob. The chief feminine presence is Frances Shea (Emily Browning), whom Reggie weds, and the crux of the plot centers on the deterioration of the marriage due to Reggie's insistence on protecting his brother, a psychotic who recklessly kills a rival in front of witnesses, endangers the gang's finances in absurd schemes, and orders a hit on the duo's fiscal manager (David Thewlis). Helgeland doesn't do a particularly good job of explaining the Krays' psychological dependence on one another or the specifics of their business operations, but he does successfully recreate the seedily glamorous milieu in which they thrived, and Hardy gives Reggie great surface charm and inner darkness while also putting on a tremendous show as the almost ghoulishly unbalanced Ron. A strong optional purchase. (F. Swietek)

Life Tracker ★1/2

Olive, 102 min., not rated, Blu-ray/DVD Combo: \$29.95

Writer-director Joe McLean's *Life Tracker* boasts an intriguing premise. When a biotech company reveals that it has developed a method to predict a person's future by analyzing his or her DNA, the news is met with skepticism by the public and press, but nevertheless prompts a slacker documentary filmmaker and his friends to chronicle the process of having their own DNA read. The subsequent revelations threaten to not only upend their own lives but also the world, once the potentially troubling implications of this technology are fully realized. *Life Tracker* bills itself as a "sci-fi thriller," but the thriller tag misses the mark by a mile for this low-budget film that languidly plods along, devoid of any tension or suspense (with bad acting to boot). And that's a shame, because *Life Tracker* does raise some interesting philosophical questions about the nature of life, death, circumstance, destiny, and free will (or lack thereof, once removed by science). How do you live your life if you already know how it will play out even up to and including the manner and time of your death? Unfortunately, these existential quan-

daries are lost amidst *Life Tracker*'s numerous drawbacks. Not recommended. (P. Morehart)

London Has Fallen ★★

Universal, 99 min., R, DVD: \$29.98, Blu-ray/DVD Combo: \$34.98, June 14

This sequel to 2013's *Olympus Has Fallen* shifts the focus from Washington, D.C., to London, where Secret Service agent Mike Banning (Gerard Butler) once again singlehandedly protects President Benjamin Asher (Aaron Eckhart). Instead of North Korean terrorists, the culprits this time are from the Middle East, seeking revenge for a U.S. drone strike in Pakistan that killed the daughter of international arms dealer Aamir Barkawi (Alon Moni Aboutboul) at her lavish wedding, where he was the primary target. "Vengeance must always be profound and absolute," malevolent Barkawi declares. The destruction begins at the funeral of the British Prime Minister: as TV audiences around the world watch in horror, several heads of state are systematically assassinated, and Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament are demolished. Since Barkawi's barbaric son (Waleed F. Zuaiter) wants to kidnap President Asher and execute him on YouTube, it's up to Banning to keep him safe, aided by an MI6 agent (Charlotte Riley). Meanwhile, back home, the Vice President (Morgan Freeman), Secret Service director (Angela Bassett), and Secretary of Defense (Melissa Leo) watch the debacle on a video screen in the situation room with their elite advisory cohorts (Robert Forster, Jackie Earle Haley). Iranian-born Swedish director Babak Najafi makes his English-language debut in this confusing film full of action-packed sequences that defy both logic and credibility (accompanied by cheesy digital effects). Full of over-the-top violence and gratuitous sadism, this disappointing sequel is optional, at best. (S. Granger)

Lost in Hong Kong

★★★

Well Go USA, 114 min., in Mandarin w/English subtitles, not rated, DVD: \$24.98, Blu-ray: \$29.98

Chinese comic actor-director Xu Zheng adds yet another installment to the *Lost in...* series of blockbuster Far East audience-pleasers that are shaping up to resemble the Mandarin-speaking world's equivalent of the Hope/Crosby *Road* pictures. The filmmaker plays Xu Lai, a onetime art student who lost his dream-girl classmate when she pursued painting studies in Europe. Xu settled for running a lingerie factory and marrying the boss's daughter. Now, Xu learns that his old flame is mounting an art installation in Hong Kong, so with the intent of having a clandestine reunion,



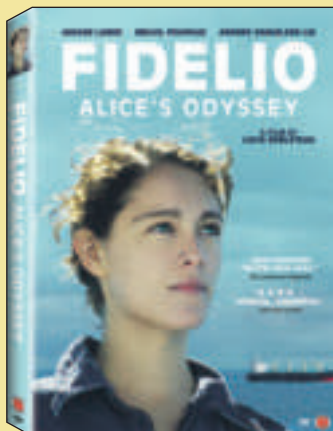


THE FEAR OF 13

95 minutes, color, \$19.95, FRF 916998D
STREET DATE: JUNE 7

Calling to mind *Serial* and *The Jinx*, this haunting psychological thriller is a stylistically daring experiment in storytelling. Nick, a death row inmate, petitions the court to be executed. As he tells his story, it gradually becomes clear that nothing is quite what it seems. Nick spins his tale with all the twists and turns of a crime drama, with a final shocking twist that casts everything in a new light.

"This engrossing, gripping documentary is the staggering true story of a convicted murderer who demanded his own execution after 20 years on death row." -Variety



FIDELIO: ALICE'S ODYSSEY

97 minutes, color, \$24.95, FRF 916974D
STREET DATE: MAY 17

Thirty-year-old Alice is a sailor about to embark on a journey she will not soon forget. Leaving her fiancé Félix ashore, she joins the crew of an old cargo ship, the Fidelio, as a mechanic. Once on board, Alice discovers that she is replacing a man who has just died and that Gaël, the first great love of her life, is the ship's captain.

"A fascinating portrait of a liberated female sailor who floats free of the conventional life. Ariane Laved puts in an astonishingly vivid performance as the globe-trotting seamstress. Very satisfying." -Spirituality and Practice

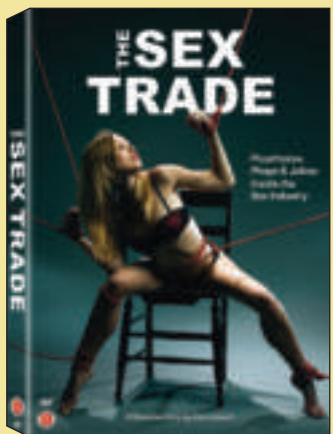


MAGICAL GIRL

122 minutes, color, \$24.95, FRF 916943D
NOW AVAILABLE

An unemployed father seeking a gift for his dying daughter, a disturbed woman with a dark past, and a math teacher turned criminal find their fates bound together in this bracing thriller from Spanish director Carlos Vermut.

"Darkly intriguing, expertly composed and elegantly austere...a thoroughly contemporary noirish social critique constructed on rich emotional foundations." -The Hollywood Reporter



THE SEX TRADE

76 minutes, color, \$24.95, FRF 916967D
NOW AVAILABLE

Eve Lamont's documentary is an inside look into the worldwide sex trade, which has expanded into an enormous industry. Part investigation and part editorial, the film delves into a brutal world whose key players trivialize the impact of their actions by claiming that prostitution is simply a service like any other.

Interviewing experts as well as people in different aspects of the sex trade, the film offers a behind-the-scenes look at this modern form of slavery.



TROUBLEMAKERS: THE STORY OF LAND ART

72 minutes, color, \$24.95, FRF 916983D
STREET DATE: MAY 17

Troublemakers unearths land art in the late 1960s when a cadre of renegade artists sought to transcend the limitations of painting and sculpture by producing earthworks on a monumental scale in the desolate desert landscape of the American southwest. Today these works by Robert Smithson, Michael Heizer, Walter De Maria and others continue to astound and amaze us for their breathtaking audacity.

"A film that takes its place among the great art documentaries of the past half-century." -The Wall Street Journal

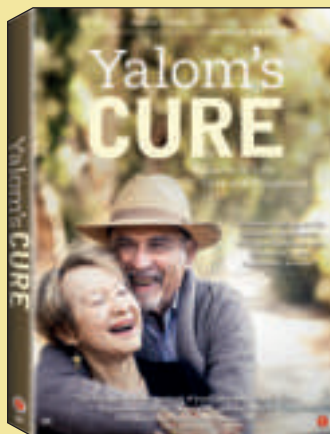


ART HOUSE

87 minutes, color, \$24.95, FRF 916950D
NOW AVAILABLE

Art House explores the homes designed and lived in by notable American artists, ranging from the romantic (Hudson River School painter Frederic Church's Olan), to the futuristic (Paolo Soleri's silt-casted structure Cosanti), to the sublime (George Nakashima's mid-century modern ode to the beauty and versatility of wood).

"Documenting the extraordinary architectural work of some of America's great artists, Art House takes the viewer on a journey from landscape to landscape across North America. A film of stunning beauty." -Atlas & Aerie



YALOM'S CURE

74 minutes, color, \$24.95, FRF 916981D
STREET DATE: JUNE 7

Bestselling author and noted scholar Irvin Yalom is one of the most influential psychotherapists living today. In this cinematic documentary, we embark on an existential journey with Yalom through the layers of the human mind, navigating the depths and shallows of our psyche. Along the way we learn about Yalom's groundbreaking work, and listen as he reveals some of his most fundamental insights and wisdom.

"A tender homage to the renowned psychiatrist...will appeal to those with an interest in the therapeutic process." -LA Weekly



WE MONSTERS

95 minutes, color, \$19.95, FRF 917001D
STREET DATE: JUNE 7

How far would you go to protect your child? Two parents are about to find out. After their teenage daughter Sarah confesses to the killing of her best friend Charlie, the recently separated Paul and Christine decide to hide the crime. Their collective guilt forces the family back together, creating a web of lies and deadly intentions with no way out.

"A brilliant, tense, and disturbing film that takes the fears of a parent and pushes them into overdrive. An absolute must see." -Toronto Film Scene

he travels there with his wife and annoying in-laws in tow. None is more annoying than Lala (Bao Bei'er), a wannabe documentary filmmaker in the Robert Flaherty tradition, who obsessively shoots videos of Xu and questions why this oddly evasive man hasn't yet fathered children. Suspecting adultery, Lala triggers a series of epic disasters with his clumsy probing, including a running gag of poor Xu repeatedly locked into a futuristic movie-prop f/x metal headpiece. Even a rather gratuitous crime-action subplot here does not overwhelm the sweet spirit at the center, which can be enjoyed even if some of the humor grounded in Mandarin-Cantonese language misunderstandings doesn't quite translate. Recommended. (C. Cassady)

Marshland ★★★1/2

Strand, 105 min., in Spanish w/English subtitles, not rated, DVD: \$27.99



Set in the wetlands of Andalusia, Spain, circa 1980 (during a delicate transfer of power in that country from military dictatorship to democracy), director Alberto Rodriguez's *Marshland* is a gripping and intelligent mystery-thriller about two Madrid cops hunting for a serial killer. In the best noir tradition, the story features layers of discovery and tension, not least between the heroes themselves. Juan (Javier Gutiérrez) is the older of the partners, with a shrouded past in Franco's government security forces. Pedro (Raul Arevalo) is a rookie idealist with a pregnant wife and a propensity for being publicly critical of authorities. The two have to set aside their differences to investigate the torture-murders of two teen sisters, a mission impeded by local resistance to their presence. The case itself becomes as complex and winding as the titular land-and-river system in the region, which is as important as the characters. An engrossing and sharp-edged police-procedural—which swept the Goya awards (Spain's equivalent of the Oscar)—this is highly recommended. (T. Keogh)

The Mask You Live In

★★★1/2

Virgil Films, 90 min., not rated, DVD: \$19.99



"Man up." "Be a man." "Boys don't cry." "You're a momma's boy." Boys and young men hear these phrases (among many others) all too often from family members, teachers, friends, and classmates, all meant to instill a "proper" sense of manhood. These words have become ubiquitous, along with countless media messages that propagate a particular brand of masculinity that inhibits emotions, amplifies sexuality and violence, and promotes misogyny and homophobia. Filmmaker Jennifer Siebel Newsom's excellent, probing

documentary *The Mask You Live In* examines the effects of such messages on youth and men alike. Testimony is heard from psychologists, educators, athletes, and others, who reveal how our culture's strict adherence to a stereotypical view of masculinity has created generations of stunted men and boys. The film demonstrates how movies, video games, and pornography can desensitize men, while also addressing the generational component: a young boy often learns a skewed version of manhood from his father, who learned it from his father, and so on back through the years. Simply put: the problem lies in nurture, not nature—a point driven home here by examples of men—fathers, youth leaders, and even prison inmates—who are making strides to reverse the stereotype by opening up, accepting their emotions, and creating environments that foster positive male fellowship. Highly recommended. (P. Morehart)

Meadowland ★★★1/2

Cinedigm, 95 min., R, DVD: \$19.98



Reed Morano's drama effectively plumbs the emotional depths of a couple who are barely surviving an unimaginable tragedy. The story opens a year after Sarah (Olivia Wilde), a New York City teacher, and husband Phil (Luke Wilson) experienced the abduction of their son during a vacation. Unable to cope with their loss—Phil insists the child is dead, Sarah refuses to accept that conclusion—they have drifted into dangerous behavior. Sarah slips away from their home to venture through Times Square during the twilight hour, and her attachment to a young student with Asperger's goes beyond academic support. Phil begins to behave inappropriately during work, creating situations that lead to new problems. Morano—an acclaimed cinematographer making his directing debut—creates a visually striking environment in which two people are adrift in an urban miasma that offers no comfort for their profound sorrows. The film benefits from full-throttle performances by Wilde and Wilson, who create heartbreaking portraits of decent people cruelly transformed by tragedy. Highly recommended. (P. Hall)

Miss You Already ★★★

Lionsgate, 113 min., PG-13, DVD: \$19.98, Blu-ray: \$24.99



Twilight director Catherine Hardwicke returns to her dramatic roots for this tragicomic tale of female friendship, which almost plays like a sequel to *Thirteen*, Hardwicke's coming-of-age film about suburban teenagers. Jess meets Milly when her American family moves to London in 1986, and the two become fast friends. As the years pass, the pair share the

same experiences, including attending rock concerts, where publicist Milly (now played by Toni Collette) meets musician Kit (Dominic Cooper), which leads to pregnancy and marriage. In time, the fashionable couple has a second child, while Birkenstock-sporting urban planner Jess (Drew Barrymore) has settled down with oil-rig worker Jago (Paddy Considine), but pregnancy eludes them. Then Milly finds out she has breast cancer, telling Jess before she informs Kit or her actress mother, Miranda (a blonde Jacqueline Bissett), who all offer their unconditional support. It's too bad that Hardwicke makes Jago into a drip who chastises his wife for spending time with someone who needs her more than he does, but fortunately he's not enough of a villain to detract from the unbreakable central bond between the two women that powers the film. Recommended. (K. Femmessy)

My All-American ★★

Universal, 119 min., PG, DVD: \$22.98, Blu-ray/DVD Combo: \$29.98



Filmmaker Angelo Pizzo's utterly schmaltzy and crudely manipulative fact-based inspirational sports drama set in the Texas plains tells the story of Freddie Steinmark (Finn Wittrock), who was dismissed as too small to play college football by most coaches but became a star safety for the UT Longhorns under the celebrated Darrell Royal (Aaron Eckhart) before being diagnosed with a cancerous bone tumor that necessitated the amputation of his left leg in the middle of a triumphant 1969-70 season. Steinmark's appearance on crutches (only 20 days after surgery) at the 1970 Cotton Bowl, in which his team faced off against Notre Dame, is the stuff of pigskin legend, and Pizzo milks it for all it's worth. Wittrock portrays Steinmark as a flawless paragon—obedient to his parents, devoted to his faith, committed to his high-school sweetheart, and loyal to his friends as well as being the sparkplug of his team. The film also serves up a laudatory portrait of Royal (who not only took a chance on Steinmark but fashioned an innovative strategy to turn his mediocre squad into a championship contender). Ultimately, *My All-American* is as much hagiography as biography. Optional, at best. (F. Swietek)

Naz & Maalik ★★1/2

Wolfe, 86 min., not rated, DVD: \$24.95



Kerwin Johnson, Jr. and Curtiss Cook, Jr. give loose, agreeable performances in the respective title roles of Jay Dockendorf's *Naz & Maalik*, which is set in Brooklyn in the aftermath of 9/11. Both are high school students who are Muslim but also closeted gays, acutely aware of their faith's prohibition

against homosexuality and hesitant about becoming too intimate. The pair spend their free time buying stuff from convenience stores—candy, scented oils, lottery tickets, religious cards—and then hawking the items on the street and in the subway, making a small profit on the transactions. As the boys amble around the neighborhood, they punctuate their sales with rambling discussions on a wide variety of subjects. A semblance of plot eventually kicks in when the duo are approached by an undercover cop who offers to sell them a gun; they decline, but the encounter brings them to the attention of an FBI agent whose questions lead Naz to lie about where he was on a night that he spent with Maalik—a lie that could land him in jail. *Naz & Maalik* is a reasonably engaging film that sometimes veers off the rails, either becoming stridently serious or lapsing into clumsy farce, especially in an episode involving the purchase of a live chicken for a birthday celebration for Maalik's mother. A strong optional purchase. (F. Swietek)

Night Will Fall ★★★★★
Warner, 113 min., not rated,
DVD: \$21.99



When Allied armies began liberating German concentration camps in 1944, the horrors were captured on celluloid, but a British project to assemble the footage into a documentary that would stand as proof of Nazi atrocities was halted, mostly due to post-war changes in international policy (although some of the footage was used as evidence at the Nuremberg war crime trials). André Singer's film is in large part about the efforts of British and American camera crews to record for posterity what the liberators found (while forcing Germans who were living nearby to confront it), but it also follows the quest of Sidney Bernstein, a producer at the British Ministry of Information, to fashion the raw material into a finished work—a project for which he enlisted Alfred Hitchcock, who flew from America to advise him. To the archival material—which also includes footage shot by Soviet crews on the Eastern Front—Singer adds contemporary interviews with surviving cameramen and soldiers (British, American, and Russian) who liberated the camps, all still struggling with what they witnessed; members of Bernstein's editing crew; and reminiscences from some of the camp survivors seen in the original footage. And there's a clip from an interview with Billy Wilder, who used some of the filmed material in a Defense Department short called *Death Mills*, which was shown in German theatres (although not in the U.S.). *Night Will Fall* is both a harrowing record of the crimes perpetrated in the camps and a sobering testament of how post-war political concerns—particularly with respect to the rebuilding of

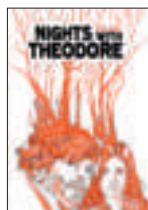
Germany as a bulwark against Communist expansion—impacted the revelations of the full truth. Highly recommended. **Editor's Choice.** (F. Swietek)

The Nightingale ★★★
Kino Lorber, 100 min., in
Mandarin w/English subtitles,
not rated, DVD: \$29.95



Philippe Muyl's 2013 Chinese-French co-production, a sweet and simple tale of generational reconciliation, was selected as China's official entry to the 2015 Oscars. The story begins in modern-day Beijing, where a yuppie couple is raising a precocious, demanding daughter named Renxing (Xinyi Yang). The husband is estranged from his father Zhu (Baotian Li), who once lost track of his granddaughter during a visit to an outdoor market, but a crisis arises when both parents are called away on business trips, and the wife arranges for the old man to take charge of the girl. Granddad Zhu, however, has plans to travel to his hometown in the south, taking along the caged nightingale that he has long tended as a reminder of his dead wife, and so he brings Renxing along. Initially, Renxing is resistant to the idea of going into the wilderness, but gradually she warms to the rural beauty of the area even as their bus breaks down and they get lost. And, of course, she also develops a warm bond with the grandfather she's barely known until now. What saves *The Nightingale* from the pitfalls of mawkishness are Muyl's gentle, unforced direction; the charming chemistry between the two leads; and the beauty of the countryside, lovingly captured by cinematographer Sun Ming. Recommended. (F. Swietek)

Nights with Theodore ★
Film Movement, 67 min., in
French w/English subtitles, not
rated, DVD: \$14.95



Writer-director Sébastien Betbeder's *Nights with Theodore* is a flimsy bit of whimsy centering on Parisian couple Theodore (Pio Marmai) and Anna (Agathe Bonitzer), who become obsessed with spending their nights together at the Buttes Chaumont park in the City of Lights' 9th district, where the woods, a grotto, and the Temple of Sibylle—which is rumored to contain mystical powers—draws them in. The park's precise hold on the pair is never made clear: Theodore and Anna simply hop a fence after dark, and do a little exploring and play-acting (calling one another "Count" and "Countess"), but there's no real sense of magic or even heightened experience here. Betbeder's nocturnal images are fuzzy and uninspired, and the lovers are so laconic that it's impossible to know what actually stirs them about their after-hours adventures (and Theodore's recurring problems with asthma

don't add anything of significance). Even the sudden appearance of New Age types crashing the duo's private party ultimately does little to bring much extra energy to this big blank of a film. Not recommended. (T. Keogh)

Noma: My Perfect Storm ★★★

Magnolia, 99 min., not rated,
DVD: \$26.98, Blu-ray: \$29.98



Not just for foodies, this documentary serves up an intriguing portrait of the mastermind chef behind Noma, the celebrated restaurant in Copenhagen that was named best in the world. *Noma* tells the story of a self-described outsider in Scandinavian culture who championed the exclusive use of Nordic ingredients in haute cuisine. Thirtysomething René Redzepi is a mercurial figure with a barely-suppressed grudge driving his ambition. The son of a Danish mother and Albanian immigrant father, Redzepi recalls instances of discrimination faced by his family that extended well into his own adulthood. While *Noma* doesn't dwell much on the pleasures and joys of cooking, it is intensely focused on Redzepi's experiments with such unexpected ingredients as rose petals and (gulp) live ants (other culinary elements are found as various farmers and foragers clip mushrooms in a forest, harvest pansies, and drain sap from a tree). A 2013 gap in Noma's streak of top rankings from 2010-14 by *Restaurant* magazine was the result of tainted seafood, a crisis that is captured here on camera and rectified the following year by the determined chef. Recommended. (T. Keogh)

Open Season: Scared Silly ★★1/2

Sony, 85 min., PG, DVD:
\$25.99, Blu-ray/DVD Combo:
\$30.99



The fourth film—direct-to-video—in Sony Pictures' rambunctious CGI talking-animal kiddie franchise is a sort of Halloween episode, even though nobody utters the "H" word. Series protagonist Elliot (voiced here by William Townsend), a nutjob deer, worries that his domesticated-bear friend Boog (Donny Lucas) is too mild-mannered for woodland life. He uses the legend of a local creature, the "Wailing Wampus Werewolf," to test Boog's courage, but a series of accidents convinces both the animals and nearby humans that a genuine werewolf is at large. Returning series villain Shaw (Trevor Devall), a maniacal rifleman, finagles permission to wield his cherished gun again to kill the lycanthrope; of course, Shaw also plans to shoot as many others animals as he can as collateral damage. The *Open Season* movies are determinedly anti-hunting—in between butt gags and fast-expiring topical

humor (such as *The Secret* self-help fad). Here, a grand opera soliloquy by a dachshund is the comic and visual creative highlight. Still, Bugs Bunny did it better and shorter (and without farts). Optional. (C. Cassidy)

Paulette ★★1/2

Cohen, 87 min., in French w/ English subtitles, R, DVD: \$24.98, Blu-ray: \$34.98



Paris is a living movie set, thanks to its beauty, history, and unrelenting cool, which provide the perfect backdrop for nearly any cinematic situation. Oft neglected, however, are the outskirts and suburbs, where much of the city's lower class and immigrant citizenry reside. These areas are miles from the picturesque Seine, Eiffel Tower, and haute couture shops and smoky cafes lining the bright Champs-Élysées—geographically, visually, politically, and socioeconomically. *Paulette*, the brash protagonist in French filmmaker Jérôme Enrico's eponymous comedy, lives in a rundown housing project. Widowed, alone, destitute, and bearing racist, xenophobic grudges, she soon finds herself unable to pay rent and facing eviction. As a desperate measure to supplement her income, she starts selling pot. Local drug dealers quickly nix that plan, so former patisserie owner Paulette uses her culinary skills to make hashish-laced cakes that become a hit and help her build an empire. *Paulette* is a light, formulaic film, but one that is also sweet and amusing. This is mostly thanks to the film's lead: the late Bernadette Lafont, a legendary star of the French New Wave who died in 2013 at the age of 74. Here, she dominates the screen as Paulette, who transforms from hard-edged and repugnant to alive and open to the world and its people thanks to the power of marijuana. A strong optional purchase. (P. Morehart)

Phoenix ★★★1/2

Criterion, 98 min., in German w/English subtitles, PG-13, DVD: \$29.95, Blu-ray: \$39.95



Loosely based on Hubert Monteilhet's 1961 French crime novel *Le Retour des Cendres* (filmed once before in 1965 as *Return from the Ashes*), Christian Petzold's adaptation jettisons the novel's melodrama, boiling the plot down to a simple but powerful parable of rebirth revolving around love, loss, betrayal, guilt, and greed in post-World War II Germany, where the enormities of the Holocaust are still both immediate and unresolved. In 1945, Nelly Lenz (Nina Hoss), a Jewish cabaret singer who survived Auschwitz with her face badly disfigured, undergoes reconstructive surgery. Returning to Berlin, she tracks down her husband, Johnny (Ronald Zehrfeld), who doesn't recognize her as his wife, whom he thinks is dead. But

Johnny notices a facial similarity and suggests that they conspire to claim a large inheritance by having her impersonate Nelly. She agrees, hoping to use their time together to find out whether Johnny had betrayed her to the authorities in order to save his own skin. Petzold frames the tale as a noir-ish suspense film in the style of Hitchcock's *Vertigo*, telling in a deliberate and sensuous style a story of the refashioning of a woman to meet a man's requirements. But it's not merely Nelly who is being reborn like the mythological phoenix: it's also Germany, and the question looms as to whether the country will choose a path based on denial and deception or accept the realities of its brutal past. A twisty thriller with much more on its narrative plate, this is highly recommended. (F. Swietek)

Portrait of a Serial Monogamist ★★★

Wolfe, 84 min., not rated, DVD: \$24.95



Elsie (Diane Flacks), the fourth-wall-breaking character at the center of Christina Zeidler and John Mitchell's LGBT rom-com, doesn't know how to end relationships. She tries to be kind, but always ends up fumbling the hand-off (she offers her rationalizations to the audience as sheepish confessions). Elsie also doesn't know how to be on her own, so she plunges into new relationships instead. After breaking up with Robyn (Carolyn Taylor), an artist, Elsie hits on Lolli (Vanessa Dunn), an attractive woman she meets in a bar. Lolli, however, just broke up with her boyfriend, and says she's on "a single trip" (she also neglects to say whether or not she likes women). When Elsie isn't stressing about her job at a Toronto TV station—where a takeover is imminent—she's trying to figure out how to fix her love life. One friend encourages her to get back into the dating game, while another bets that she can't stay single for five months. Elsie initially takes that bet, but reconnects and hits it off with Lolli, a blogger and club DJ, eventually leading to an awkward dinner with Elsie's outspoken Jewish family. Not a standard rom-com, the film is ultimately more realistic as it toggles between comedy and drama. A solid character study, this is recommended. (K. Fennesy)

Pride and Prejudice and Zombies ★★

Sony, 107 min., PG-13, DVD: \$26.99, Blu-ray: \$34.99, May 31



"It is a truth, universally acknowledged, that a zombie in possession of brains must be in want of more brains," says spirited Elizabeth Bennet (Lily James), explaining the mysterious plague that has beset the land in this quirky horror comedy that re-imagines

Jane Austen's classic tale of tangled relationships between lovers from different social classes in 19th-century England. Fortunately, Elizabeth and her four marriageable sisters are masters of Chinese martial arts. The beautiful eldest sister, decorous Jane (Bella Heathcote), immediately catches the eye of eligible Mr. Bingley (Douglas Booth), while strong, confident Elizabeth spars with brooding Col. Fitzwilliam Darcy (Sam Riley), a snobbish (yet renowned) zombie killer. Inevitably, they must band together to vanquish the decomposing ghouls. Charles Dance and Sally Phillips costar as the Bennet parents, while Matt Smith adds amusement as prissy parson Mr. Collins, Jack Huston is dastardly as Mr. Wickham, and Lena Headey glowers as Darcy's Amazonian warrior aunt, Lady Catherine de Bourgh. In the opening sequence, as the Bennet sisters (including Suki Waterhouse, Ellie Bamber, and Millie Brady) slip weapons into the garters of their Regency-era finery, director Burr Steers sets a playful, cheeky, girl-power tone—which sadly fades all-too-soon. Based on Seth Grahame-Smith's best-selling 2009 novel, the film is neither funny enough nor scary enough. Worst of all, the walking dead gimmick grows tedious and tiresome. Optional. (S. Granger)

The Primary Instinct

★★★

Kino Lorber, 73 min., not rated, DVD: \$24.95



Actor Stephen Tobolowsky has been in hundreds of movies and TV shows, from *Spaceballs* to *Groundhog Day* to *Glee*, a familiar face if not exactly a famous name. In the past decade, however, Tobolowsky has embarked on a second career as a storyteller through his podcast and NPR radio show "The Tobolowsky Files." His first concert film, *The Primary Instinct* is neither standup comedy nor traditional one-man show, but rather plays like an extension of the podcast, only performed for a live audience. Tobolowsky tells a couple of seemingly unrelated anecdotes and then eases into the theme of the performance—why do we tell stories?—with ruminations on life, death, and the idea of sacred time, illustrated with his own true life details, without ever losing that easy, conversational engagement. The title comes from his mother's motto that "the primary instinct is self-preservation." By the end of the evening, Tobolowsky comes to a different conclusion. David Chen, who produces the podcast, directs the film simply and effectively, while Tobolowsky's physical presence brings a different kind of immediacy and an element of imperfection you don't hear in the audio incarnation. Those stumbles and saves don't just humanize these stories of his life, they also help embody the themes of this engaging and reflective piece. Recommended. (S. Axmaker)



From Apichatpong Weerasethakul Writer & Director of Palme D'Or Winner *Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives*

**"The experience of watching it is like
dreaming with your eyes open."**

- *The Hollywood Reporter*

**"The mysterious universality that
Mr. Weerasethakul achieves...
is among the greatest of cinema's
many glories."**

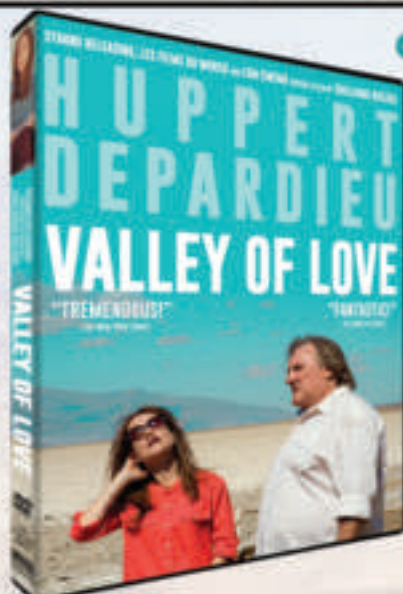
- *The New York Times*



Soldiers with a mysterious sleeping sickness are transferred to a temporary clinic in a former school. The memory-filled space becomes a revelatory world for housewife and volunteer Jenjira, as she watches over Ilt, a handsome soldier with no family visitors. There may be a connection between the soldiers' enigmatic syndrome and the mythic ancient site that lies beneath the clinic. Magic, healing, romance and dreams are all part of Jen's tender path to a deeper awareness of herself and the world around her.

Street date: **June 28, 2016** | DVD SRP: \$27.99 | BD SRP: \$32.99
DVD #: 3518-2 | BD #: 3518-3 | UPC: 7 12267 35182 4 | BD UPC: 7 12267 35183 1
105 Minutes - Color - Widescreen - Not Rated
In Thai with English subtitles

Also available on BLU-RAY
Includes Apichatpong Weerasethakul's
short film **NEKONG HOTEL**
(BR Exclusive)
91 Minutes - Color - Widescreen - Not Rated



Gerard Depardieu & Isabelle Huppert Reunited After 35 Years!

**"Ms. Huppert and Mr. Depardieu are such tremendous, epochal
screen presences and performers."**

- *The New York Times*

"These two are fantastic, and they're fantastic together."

- *Los Angeles Times*

In this mysterious and beautiful examination of a broken family, acclaimed actors Isabelle Huppert and Gerard Depardieu play thinly disguised versions of themselves as a separated couple who journey to Death Valley after receiving a mysterious letter from their dead son in the expectations that he will appear to them at a certain place and time in the desert.

Street date: **June 14, 2016** | SRP: \$27.99
DVD #: 3600-2 | UPC: 7 12267 36002 4
91 Minutes - Color - Widescreen - Not Rated
In French with English subtitles



CANNES FILM FESTIVAL
OFFICIAL SELECTION
COMPETITION



**A comedy about
having too much
of a good thing!**

"Fresh, whimsical!"

- DVD

Lambert, an ex-sex addict turned marriage counselor hires the sultry, sex-crazed Judith as his assistant. Will her unbridled sexuality derail his newfound realization that love must come before sex?

Street Date: **May 24, 2016** | SRP: \$24.99
Product #: 3610-2 | UPC: 7 12267 36102 1
89 Minutes - Color
Widescreen - Not Rated
In French with English subtitles

**From Peter Greenaway
Writer & Director of
The Cook, the Thief, His Wife
& Her Lover**

**"Audacious, dazzling,
profane, sexy...
and utterly unforgettable!"**

- *San Francisco Chronicle*

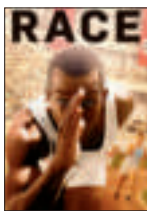
Filmmaker Sergei Eisenstein travels to Mexico in 1931 and has a sensual experience which was pivotal to his life and career.

Street Date: **May 16, 2016** | SRP: \$27.99
Product #: 3516-2 | UPC: 7 12267 35162 6
105 Minutes - Color
Widescreen - Not Rated



Race ★★1/2

Universal, 135 min., PG-13,
DVD: \$29.98, Blu-ray: \$34.98,
May 31



Timed to coincide with Hollywood's new outreach program devoted to racial diversity in the movies, this inspirational bio-pic profiles America's greatest track and field athlete, Jesse Owens, winner of four gold medals at the 1936 Olympics, where he faced off against Adolf Hitler's vision of Aryan supremacy. Son of a sharecropper and grandson of a slave, Owens's (Stephan James) story opens in Cleveland, OH, as he prepares to enroll at Ohio State. Having been told that Jesse is a natural, Coach Larry Snyder (Jason Sudeikis) asks, "Can you win? What I mean by that: can you work?" Work—and win—he does. At the Big Ten Championship in Ann Arbor, Owens sets three world records and ties in a fourth—all in roughly 45 minutes. So it's off to Berlin, even as the Amateur Athletic Union's president Jeremiah Mahoney (William Hurt) urges an American boycott to protest against Hitler's racist regime, but is opposed by International Olympic Committee Chairman Avery Brundage (Jeremy Irons), who insists that politics has no place in the Olympics. "There's no black or white when you're running, only fast and slow," Owens says. "For those 10 seconds, you're free." Directed by Stephen Hopkins, the film's title signifies Owens's sport and his African-American heritage, which forces him and his wife (Shanice Banton) to ride in a freight elevator to a banquet held in his honor at New York's still-segregated Waldorf Astoria Hotel. Unfortunately, despite its stirring subject, *Race* is presented as an old-fashioned, very conventional bio-pic. Still, this should be considered a strong optional purchase. (S. Granger)

Racing Extinction ★★

Lionsgate, 95 min., not rated,
DVD or Blu-ray: \$19.98



Historically, the Earth has suffered five mass extinctions that were triggered by various causes. As *The Sixth Extinction* author Elizabeth Kolbert—briefly featured here—argues, the next one will likely be a consequence of human activity on the planet. Claiming that up to 50% of all species could go extinct within 100 years, this new documentary from Oscar-winning filmmaker Louis Psihoyos (*The Cove*) serves up a sobering if also somewhat scattershot look at the issue. Psihoyos and his activist team infiltrate a warehouse in Hong Kong to surreptitiously film evidence of 10,000-20,000 illegally obtained shark fins (used in soup), help to successfully introduce legislation protecting manta rays, expose a Los Angeles restaurant that serves whale meat, and witness an ultimately promising effort to save the grasshopper sparrow. Along

the way, the documentary touches on a wide range of ancillary subjects related to global warming, from rampant oil consumption (the entire output of the Deepwater Horizon gulf oil spill represents about one-quarter of the oil that Americans consume in a day) to the dangers of meat-based diets (livestock produce more greenhouse gases than all forms of fossil fuel transportation). *Racing Extinction* winds up with a gimmick, albeit a visually impressive one: racecar driver Leilani Münter drives one of Elon Musk's Tesla cars outfitted with a super-powerful projection image that throws gigantic moving images of endangered species (along with factoids) onto walls and skyscrapers (including a cool sequence of King Kong climbing the Empire State Building). Although a bit unfocused, this is still a thought-provoking, beautifully filmed (although some of the images are quite disturbing) clarion call to action to help save Earth's creatures, including ourselves. Recommended. (R. Pitman)

The Revenant ★★

Fox, 156 min., R, DVD: \$29.98,
Blu-ray: \$39.99



In 1823, frontier scout Hugh Glass (Oscar-winner Leonardo DiCaprio) and his fur-trapping cohorts are exploring the uncharted northern Missouri River area near what is now Lemmon, SD, when Glass is savagely mauled by a grizzly bear and left for dead. According to the dictionary, "revenant" means one who returns from the dead, which is quite apt for stoic Glass, who not only survives but is determined to wreak revenge against those who abandoned him and killed his teenage half-Pawnee son (Forrest Goodluck). En route to Fort Kiowa, tormented Glass resolutely makes his way on foot through the harsh, frigid wilderness, dodging Arikara tribesmen who are searching for a chief's kidnapped daughter. Directed by Alejandro G. Iñárritu—who has now snagged two Best Director Oscars in a row—*The Revenant* is filmed by Oscar-winning cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki using all-natural lighting. Filled with sadistic, gruesome gore, the ultra-realistic adventure (shot in Canada and Argentina) is easily the most bluntly brutal, visceral, and visually striking mainstream movie of the year. DiCaprio delivers a punishing physical performance, while Tom Hardy shines as a despicable villain. Based on true events and a legendary explorer's tale, chronicled in Michael Punke's *The Revenant: A Novel of Revenge* (2002), this eerie, elemental man vs. the wilderness tale is recommended. (S. Granger)

Risen ★★1/2

Sony, 108 min., PG-13, DVD: \$30.99, Blu-ray: \$34.99, May 24

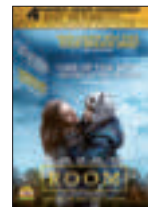
The biblical account of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is given a new twist in this

fictional tale centered on an ambitious Roman military tribune named Clavius (Joseph Fiennes), and his aide, Lucius (Tom Felton), who must try to explain what happened to Jesus (called by his Hebrew name: Yeshua) following Crucifixion, when the cadaver mysteriously disappeared from a sealed, guarded cave. Plagued by rumors of a risen Messiah and an imminent uprising in Jerusalem, the wily Roman prefect Pontius Pilate (Peter Firth) orders Clavius to assemble and question suspects, including the terrified Apostles: Peter (Stewart Scudamore), Bartholomew (Stephen Hagan), and Simon (Joe Manjón). Mary Magdalene (María Botto) chides Clavius, saying: "You look for something you will never find." Cynical Clavius's beliefs are transformed not only by what he eventually learns but also by a celestial encounter with the risen Yeshua (Maori actor Cliff Curtis), who performs a series of biblically-documented miracles, such as healing a deformed leper and conjuring a feast of fishes from the Sea of Galilee. Director Kevin Reynolds's *Risen* unfolds like a theological police procedural, and while biblical scholars may take issue with this altering of the revered narrative, this is a restrained and respectfully spiritual film that is clearly aimed at a faith-based audience. A strong optional purchase. (S. Granger)



Room ★★

Lionsgate, 118 min., R, DVD:
\$19.98, Blu-ray: \$24.99



Brie Larson delivers an Oscar-winning performance as Joy, a young woman held captive in a small shed with her 5-year-old son, Jack (Jacob Tremblay). Adapted by Emma Donoghue from her 2010 bestseller and directed by Lenny Abrahamson, the story is primarily told from the point-of-view of Jack, who was born in the squalid, small shed in which his Ma has been held captive for seven years. Through the skylight, Jack can see clouds, rain, and a leaf—but nothing else. Everything he knows about the outside world he's learned from Ma by playing games or watching television. On his fifth birthday, Ma tells him that she was 17 when she was kidnapped by a psychopath, Old Nick (Sean Bridgers), who visits to deliver groceries and rape Ma, while Jack is relegated to the makeshift wardrobe. Ma says it's time to plan their escape, a risky maneuver which will require Jack to be very brave. Co-starring Joan Allen, William H. Macy, and Tom McCamus, this Best Picture nominee hinges on the excellent acting by Larson and Tremblay, who create an astonishingly intimate mother-son connection. Highly recommended. **Editor's Choice.** (S. Granger)

Sembene! ★★★★★

Kino Lorber, 89 min., in English & French w/English subtitles, not rated, DVD: \$29.95

The father of African cinema, Ousmane Sembène (1923-2007) was an enigmatic figure, living an uprooted early life—dropping out of fifth grade, working with his fisherman father in their rural village in Senegal, moving to Dakar, fighting for the French in World War II—before stowing away to France in the late 1940s, where he was exposed to Western literature, music, and the arts while working the docks in Marseille. Sembène became a novelist, traveled to the Soviet Union to study cinema at the famed Gorky Film Studio in Moscow, and then returned to Senegal determined to make socially conscious films that told African stories for Africans. Sembène's subsequent work took the continent—and world—by storm, placing him among the world's best filmmakers. *Sembene!* documents the filmmaker's life through the eyes of his longtime friend, Mount Holyoke College professor Samba Gadjigo (who also serves as co-director of the film with Jason Silverman). After Sembène's death, Gadjigo traveled to the filmmaker's home in Dakar, which served as a cultural salon for international artists and political figures in its heyday, only to find it in disarray, with Sembène's films and papers disintegrating from neglect. This inspired Gadjigo to preserve Sembène's legacy, an effort that included this film detailing Sembène's incredible life through a wealth of interviews with the late filmmaker and his family and collaborators, as well as film clips that reveal his artistry, from the low-budget *Borom Sarret* (1963), widely considered the first African film made by a black African, to his final film, *Moolaadé* (2004), which dealt with female genital mutilation in Africa. The film is not pure celebration, however. Sembène's indiscretions are laid bare, including accounts of how he essentially stole a student's ideas and funding to serve his own purposes. Serving up a real portrait of the man and artist—not posthumous myth-building—this is highly recommended. **Editor's Choice.** (P. Morehart)



Sex, Love & Therapy ★

Strand, 88 min., in French w/English subtitles, not rated, DVD: \$24.99, May 24

Absurd to the point of self-destruction, co-screenwriter and director Tonie Marshall's French romantic comedy *Sex, Love & Therapy* wears out its welcome very quickly, despite the beautiful Sophie Marceau in a leading role as a relentless sex addict. As Judith, Marceau's sensualist character is first seen in an illicit liaison with a client she meets through her sales executive job in Asia. Returning to Paris after being



fired, Judith's fantasy about legions of naked men moving through the streets telegraphs that she is not about to change her ways anytime soon. Irony of ironies—and completely unbelievable—Judith somehow joins the psychotherapy practice of Lambert (Patrick Bruel), a former commercial pilot sublimating his own out-of-control horndog tendencies by treating dysfunctional couples. How two untrained people become professional psychologists is never explained, but such leaps in logic are typical of a movie that would also have a viewer believe that a small army of nameless women would have sex with the middle-age Lambert in a club bathroom while Judith makes a tipsy confession to a man dressed as a squirrel. Bubbly, slightly screwball, but not even remotely credible, this is not recommended. (T. Keogh)

The Sheik ★★★★★1/2

Dark Sky, 96 min., not rated, DVD: \$24.98

One of the most delightful figures in the world of professional wrestling was the now-retired Iron Sheik, a brilliantly exaggerated villain who was a fan favorite during the 1980s when the WWF (now WWE) reached a new level of popularity. Igal Hecht's documentary offers an invigorating profile of this beloved (and hated) icon. Born in Iran in 1942, Khosrow Ali Vaziri was on his nation's Olympic team in 1968 and served as a bodyguard to the Shah before moving to the United States, where he initially was a wrestling coach before drifting into professional wrestling. Vaziri's flair for the dramatic—coupled with the Reagan-era political environment—helped boost the Iron Sheik to stardom, especially when teamed with wrestler Nikolai Volkoff, a Croatian-born wrestler who presented himself as an advocate of the Soviet Union. Shaky relations with the WWE management during the 1990s impacted Vaziri's visibility as a performer, although he never truly faded from view. Indeed, he is currently a happy fixture at fan conventions and on social media, and the film includes interviews with many wrestling icons (including Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Hulk Hogan, and Jake "The Snake" Roberts) who generously praise the Iron Sheik's impact. Hecht's film also details Vaziri's personal hardships, including late-life health problems and the tragic murder of one of his daughters. Wrestling fans will love this insightful celebration of a unique character. Highly recommended. (P. Hall)



Son of Saul ★★★★★

Sony, 107 min., in Hungarian w/English subtitles, R, DVD: \$30.99, Blu-ray: \$34.99

Set in the Auschwitz death camp in October 1944, this powerful, poignant story revolves around Hungarian Jewish prisoner Saul Ausländer (Géza Röhrig). Saul is a member of

the Sonderkommando—a group of prisoners assigned the grim tasks of carrying corpses from the gas chamber to the crematorium and then carting away the ashes to be discarded. As Allied Forces draw closer, the pace of killing is accelerated. Among the dead, Saul finds the body of a young boy he claims as his son, and he becomes obsessed with finding a rabbi to say Kaddish (the prayer for the dead) to give the child a proper burial. Saul's sense of urgency is further heightened by his cohorts' plans for an upcoming Sonderkommando rebellion. Inspired by *Voices from Beneath the Ashes*, a collection of true tales from Auschwitz published in Jean-Paul Sartre's periodical *Les Temps Modernes*, Hungarian-born writer-director Laszlo Nemes's Oscar winner reveals the horror solely through Saul's perspective, consigning the violence to the unfocused background, along with the desperate wailing and persistent screaming (the film has no musical score, adding to the chilling effect). Highly recommended. **Editor's Choice.** (S. Granger)



Steve Jobs: The Man in the Machine ★★★★★1/2

Magnolia, 128 min, R, DVD: \$26.98, Blu-ray: \$29.98

Filmmaker Alex Gibney's documentary on Apple Computer CEO and cult figure Steve Jobs offers a dark view of the mercurial business/tech icon. While not a tabloid takedown, the documentary is dubious about the world Jobs helped to usher in, where marvelous handheld devices serve to isolate more than unite people. Also narrating, Gibney says that he was intrigued when Jobs's death in 2011 spurred worldwide mourning—as though a revered pop star or religious leader had fallen. He retells the familiar Jobs saga with input from such unheralded witnesses as ex-girlfriend Chrisann Brennan and the Japanese Zen monk whom Jobs nearly followed into monastic life. This profile of a digital-age Citizen Kane combines interviews and archival material as it posits that Jobs's early, giddy creation of a tech company based on optimism, rebellion, and individuality fell prey to its own success, becoming a tax-dodging, unsavory corporate goliath. Where Walter Isaacson and other biographers saw a Jobs valiantly obsessed with quality control and consumer-design perfection, Gibney sees brooding megalomania and greed. Not surprisingly, Jobs's ex-wife did not cooperate with the project. Despite the bias, this will be a sure-to-be-popular addition to bio shelves (in the tradition of Albert Goldman and Kitty Kelley's jaundiced books on the revered and powerful), regardless of history's ultimate judgment of Jobs. Highly recommended. (C. Cassidy)



Sucker ★★1/2

Film Movement, not rated, 95 min., DVD: \$24.95

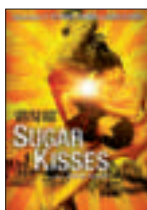
Sucker follows a familiar template as a disillusioned teenager with an uncertain future runs away with a con man and his daughter for a life on the road, where he is taught the tricks of the trade while also learning valuable lessons. Despite its obviousness, *Sucker* is loosely based on the true story of the early life experiences of Lawrence Leung, an Australian standup comic and star of Aussie TV who co-wrote the script with director Ben Chessell. It's standard, sweet, and predictable fare, but sadly bogged down by its lead, John Luc, a young actor who shot to fame as a YouTube celeb. Luc simply can't keep up with his fellow actors, in particular the great Timothy Spall, who stars as the troubled con man struggling to ply his trade while providing for his teenage daughter as they traverse the Australian backcountry. Still, despite the thespian gap, *Sucker* is a charming film that offers brief glimpses into the world of Asian immigrants living in Australia. A strong optional purchase. (P. Morehart)



Sugar Kisses ★★★

Strand, 87 min., in Spanish w/ English subtitles, not rated, DVD: \$24.99

This puppy love story stars César Kancino as 13-year-old Nacho, a much-neglected and emotionally abused boy in Mexico City. Abandoned by his father, Nacho lives with a mom who despises him, and a lowlife stepfather who runs a sex-shop in an outdoor market stall controlled by a local crime boss (Veronica Falcón). The latter has an iron grip on many neighborhood businesses as well as the police and black market. The boss also has a lovely daughter, Mayra (Daniela Arce), with whom Nacho develops a dangerous infatuation. While the world seems to close in around Nacho at home, his courtship of Mayra brings both children some happiness, even if Mayra's thuggish mom brutally disapproves. Carlos Cuarón directs from the point-of-view of a boy who more or less has become a pariah in his community, and has little to lose by fighting for what he wants. The street scenes, back alleys, and out of the way stairwells offer a kind of hidden-city feel that gives *Sugar Kisses* a tough authenticity. Recommended. (T. Keogh)

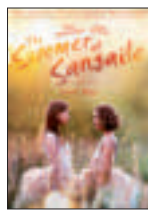


The Summer of Sangaile ★★★

Strand, 88 min., in Lithuanian w/English subtitles, not rated, DVD: \$27.99

Moody, 17-year-old Sangaile (Julija Steponaityte) is struggling with private emotional pain, which causes her to cut her arms. Seemingly fascinated by single-engine

airplane stunt flying (an airfield is near her parents' summer residence), Sangaile watches ace pilots execute barrel rolls, circles, and earthbound plummets. But even though she's given the opportunity, Sangaile won't go up in the air to see what such showmanship looks like from the inside. Still, her interest results in her meeting Auste (Aiste Dirziute), another beautiful teen, but one who, unlike Sangaile, is brimming with confidence about her gifts (she's a visionary designer and photographer), her sexuality, and her future. Over the course of a season spent in the sun and water, Sangaile and Auste become lovers, and the latter's influence on her emotionally stalled friend causes Sangaile to look at her life on a broader scale, full of possibilities. Dirziute is especially interesting: the camera loves her timeless look of grace, strength, and sacrifice (she would have done well in cinema's silent era). Her Auste gazes at Sangaile as if seeing a diamond in the rough, looking ahead to the full flower of the woman Sangaile will become. Writer-director Alanté Kavaïté works equally well on tiny and enormous canvasses, shooting powerful moments in the tiny spaces where Sangaile inflicts self-harm as well as in the great swaths of sky where airplanes carry on like untamed horses. Recommended. (T. Keogh)



Take Me to the River

★★★

Shout! Factory, 95 min., PG, DVD: \$19.98, Blu-ray: \$24.98

Actor and musician Terence Howard hosts this introduction to the soul music of Memphis and the Mississippi Delta. *Take Me to the River* is both a documentary and a "making-of," since musician-turned-director Martin Shore captures the artists who appear on the soundtrack as they rehearse, record, and discuss their song selections. Shore received production assistance from guitarist Jerry Harrison (Talking Heads) and singer Cody Dickinson (North Mississippi Allstars), son of famed producer Jim Dickinson (although Howard neglects to mention it, the Talking Heads famously covered "Take Me to the River," the Al Green classic that gives the project its title). In an attempt to appeal to a broader audience, young artists join forces with veteran performers here, including session guitarists Hubert Sumlin (Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters) and Charles "Skip" Pitts (the Isley Brothers, Isaac Hayes), both of whom died shortly afterwards. Most of the configurations make sense, such as singer Otis Rush and rapper Frayser Boy (Three 6 Mafia); or Cody's brother, guitarist Luther Dickinson, and singer Mavis Staples; but rapper Lil P-Nut, who turned 13 in 2015, could've used a few



more years under his belt, although Otis Clay seems delighted by his tiny partner. Alongside the performance material, Shore intercuts clips of Hayes, Sam & Dave, and other artists who came from the same scene. Howard, who performs the original song "Walk Away" here, also talks about Memphis's connection to the Civil Rights movement. Recommended. (K. Fennesy)

That's Not Us ★★★

Strand, 97 min., not rated, DVD: \$24.99

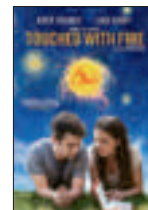
Three couples—one lesbian, one straight, one gay—embark on a weekend getaway from New York City to Fire Island, and the rifts that have been quietly developing between various lovers finally explode into the open. As these friends vacation during the offseason (a nice metaphor for the post-honeymoon-phase that all of the couples are experiencing), tensions build in the absence of big-city distractions. Jackie (Nicole Pursell) and Alex (Sarah Wharton) have entered a sexless phase in their relationship, a reflection of broken communication. Liz (Elizabeth Gray) and James (Mark Berger) are at a crisis point where they are having trouble revealing their vulnerability to one another. And Dougie (Tommy Nelms) and Spencer (David Rysdahl) are facing a potentially life-altering situation when the former is accepted into an elite post-graduate school in Chicago. Filmmaker William Sullivan reportedly worked with the actors to improvise many of the scenes, bringing an authenticity to the characters and their problems. Recommended. (T. Keogh)



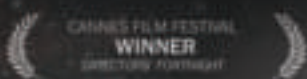
Touched with Fire ★★

Lionsgate, 110 min., R, DVD: \$19.98, Blu-ray: \$24.99, June 7

Inspired by his own struggle with bipolar disorder, writer-director Paul Dario's *Touched with Fire* is a sensitive story of two mental hospital patients—manic/depressive writers—whose art is fueled by emotional extremes. Carla (Katie Holmes) is a published poet. When she first meets slam rapper Marco (Luke Kirby), Carla derides his artistic pretensions. Marco worships manic painter Vincent Van Gogh's *The Starry Night* and he quotes Lord Byron, "We of the craft are all crazy." In group sessions, Carla challenges Marco's assertion that bipolar disorder has influenced the creativity of many artistic geniuses. Yet at 3 a.m., these insomniacs meet in a deserted art studio and talk about escaping to the distant planet they've come to believe is their real home and parenting a yet-to-be-born miracle child. When the medical staff realizes what's happening, the pair are separated and their respective caring, concerned parents (Christine Lahti, Bruce Altman, and Griffin



New Releases From OSCILLOSCOPE LABORATORIES



2016 ACADEMY AWARD® NOMINEE

EMBRACE of the SERPENT

"A PHYSCHEDELIC ROAD TRIP BY CANOE."
-VICE

EMBRACE OF THE SERPENT CENTERS ON KARAMAKATE, AN AMAZONIAN SHAMAN AND THE LAST SURVIVOR OF HIS PEOPLE, AND THE TWO SCIENTISTS WHO, OVER THE COURSE OF 40 YEARS, BUILD A FRIENDSHIP WITH HIM.

CAT # OSC-068
UPC- 857490005233
SRP: \$34.99

CAT # BD-OSC-068
UPC- 857490005240
SRP: \$39.99

STREET: JUNE 21, 2016

THE WONDERS



"A curiously spellbinding portrait of farm life in the Tuscan countryside."

- Paste Magazine



CAT # OSC-066
UPC- 857490005219
SRP: \$34.99

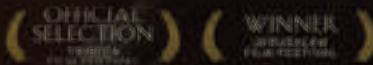
AVAILABLE NOW

"Poignant and profound."

-Indiewire

WHAT OUR FATHERS DID

A NAZI LEGACY



CAT # OSC-067
UPC- 857490005202
SRP: \$34.99

AVAILABLE NOW

OSCILLOSCOPE
www.oscilloscope.net

RIVER OF GRASS



"Incisive and funny... simultaneously subversive and compassionate."

- Boston Globe



CAT # OSC-062
UPC- 857490005189
SRP: \$34.99

CAT # BD-OSC-062
UPC- 857490005196
SRP: \$39.99

DYDLOE CH#QRZ

Dunne) try in vain to keep them apart. When they eventually move in together, Carla and Marco re-create Van Gogh's masterpiece on the walls of their apartment. The film's title refers to psychologist Kay Redfield Jamison's 1993 scholarly study, *Touched with Fire: Manic-Depressive Illness and the Artistic Temperament*. While Kirby and Holmes emote with conviction, some of the plot feels quite improbable, and although this is a serious exploration of sanity and creativity, the film's near absolute lack of humor weighs it down. Optional. (S. Granger)

The Tribe ★★★

Cinedigm, 132 min., not rated, DVD: \$24.99, Blu-ray: \$29.95

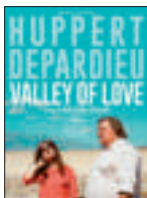
Ukrainian writer-director Myroslav Slaboshpytskiy's debut feature is wordless—but not soundless. Employing ambient noise (although no music), the film is set at a boarding school for the deaf in Kiev, with the dialogue presented entirely in sign language without subtitles. Unless viewers can read sign, they will have to depend on the characters' gestures and expressions to understand the narrative. But while some minor details might remain ambiguous, the simple plot trajectory is relatively easy to follow, centering on an outsider struggling to penetrate an alien world. Sergey (Grigoriy Fesenko) is a newly-enrolled teen who learns that some of his classmates shake down the other students and sneak out at night to carouse and rob random victims while also pimping out girls at a nearby truck stop. Once Sergey proves his mettle, he works his way up the leadership ladder, but his infatuation with one of the girls results in his being expelled from the gang, setting him on a course to exact a terrible retribution. *The Tribe* creates an unsettling mood of grubby desperation and almost graphic seedy sex, while the cast of non-professionals exhibit a degree of intensity that is nearly feral. A haunting experience, this is recommended. (F. Swietek)



Valley of Love ★★★

Strand, 92 min., in French w/ English subtitles, not rated, DVD: \$27.99, June 28

The initial closing credit for this intriguing drama says it all: "Huppert/Depardieu." Whatever else writer-director Guillaume Nicloux's *Valley of Love* might be, it is primarily a showcase for two French acting legends, Isabelle Huppert and Gérard Depardieu, who were first paired together in 1980's *Loulou*. In this hybrid ghost story and portrait of a failed family, Huppert plays Isabelle, ex-wife of Depardieu's Gerard (the choice of character names adds a layer of self-aware cinematic gravitas). Brought together far from their respective homes, the two have not seen each other for years but



have agreed to meet in California's Death Valley. The reason: their son Michael, who committed suicide while living in San Francisco, left them a letter with instructions to be at a particular site in the desert at a precise day and time. With no idea what this means, Gérard reluctantly goes along with Isabelle's strong feeling that they must honor Michael's request. In the days leading up to the rendezvous, the ex-spouses bicker and dissect the past, exchanging recriminations over the ways that they emotionally and literally abandoned Michael more than once in his short life. Gérard seems cavalier about not seeing his son for years, and Isabelle is far more devoted to her second family, yet these miserable, confused, deeply-flawed characters are also sympathetic as regret-filled individuals. Nicloux underscores their emotional isolation by capturing images of the pair against the vast expanses of the desert, with its dreamlike sand dunes and canyon walls. When the moment comes for fulfilling Michael's written request, the scene resembles something found in a Henry James ghost story. Recommended. (T. Keogh)

Victor Frankenstein

★★★1/2

Fox, 110 min., PG-13, DVD: \$29.98, Blu-ray: \$39.99

Fidelity to Mary Shelley's classic 1818 novel is not an important consideration in this action-adventure prequel by director Paul McGuigan. Young Frankenstein (played with over-the-top relish by James McAvoy) is an arrogant medical student attempting to reanimate dead tissue using electricity. While visiting a London circus, Victor frees a hunchback named Igor (Daniel Radcliffe) from virtual bondage, cures his deformity, and makes him his assistant. Unfortunately, their work attracts the notice of both a determined Scotland Yard inspector and a wealthy power-hungry aristocrat who finances Victor's ultimate experiment at creating life—which occasions a big, chaotic finale. Although the film features a romantic subplot, the central relationship is between Victor and Igor, a mutually supportive camaraderie in which Radcliffe uses quiet reticence to good effect against McAvoy's flamboyance. While the ending disappoints, *Victor Frankenstein* offers a sporadically engaging take on the monster tale that is good for a few smiles. A strong optional purchase. (F. Swietek)



Victoria ★★★

Adopt, 138 min., in English & German w/English subtitles, not rated, DVD: \$29.95, Blu-ray: \$34.95

Victoria manages an impressive technical achievement: a street film turned romantic drama turned



crime thriller, it was shot in a single, unbroken take in real time between late night and dawn. Victoria (Laia Costa), a pretty young Spanish student in Berlin, meets a quartet of drunk guys emerging from an underground dance club and—casting aside all good sense—decides to follow these raucous men she doesn't know into situations that could put her at risk. But while they may be thugs, they genuinely like her and she likes them, especially the good-looking Sonne (Frederick Lau). After 50 minutes of being a pleasant if overlong character piece, *Victoria* suddenly transforms into a heist picture, with Victoria volunteering to drive the getaway car. The offscreen heist (the camera remains in the car with Victoria) is a success but the getaway is a disaster as they decide to duck into a dance club instead of leaving the neighborhood. Victoria is a thoroughly confused character: joining a robbery after only knowing the men for an hour, keeping her head while they panic, and still treating the whole thing like a game. And the screenplay clearly contrives situations to meet the technical needs of the project, which leaves it being something of a dramatic mess. Neither much of a thriller nor a character drama, director Sebastian Schipper's film is mostly notable for its one-take production stunt. Optional. (S. Axmaker)

We Come As Friends

★★★1/2

BBC, 109 min., in English, Chinese & Arabic w/English subtitles, not rated, DVD: \$24.98

Academy Award-nominated documentary filmmaker Hubert Sauper (*Darwin's Nightmare*) here turns his camera on Africa's newest nation, South Sudan, during its tumultuous emergence into independence in 2011. Traveling across the challenging Sudanese topography in a tiny airplane, Sauper finds that the country has been invaded by foreign nationals who recognize a diverse number of opportunities. Chinese business entities send dozens of workers to exploit South Sudan's oil resources, while Christian missionaries from the United States bring their distinctive brand of evangelicalism to the unsuspecting Sudanese. United Nations peacekeepers attempt to create order in a landscape that was ravaged for years by civil war, while Sudanese warlords lack the enthusiasm to embrace a new era of peace. Sauper captures a fair amount of unapologetic condescension on the part of several foreign visitors, most egregiously in a comment from a British bomb disposal expert who says of the Sudanese, "There must be a reason they're still 200 years behind the rest of the world." The title *We Come As Friends* may suggest a *Twilight Zone*-style sneaky alien invasion, but the clash of cultures in South Sudan feels more like a grim comedy of errors. Winner of the Sundance Film Festival's

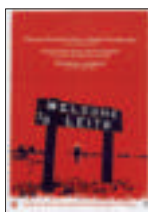


Special Jury Award for Cinematic Bravery, this is highly recommended. (P. Hall)

Welcome to Leith

★★★1/2

First Run, 86 min., not rated,
DVD: \$24.95



In 2012, a stranger came to a small town (population around 20) in North Dakota and began buying up property. Initially, people thought that the purchases were related to the state's oil boom, but the stranger—Craig Cobb—was actually a white supremacist with a plan to make Leith the center of his movement. Soon others with similar beliefs began to arrive, and locals found themselves in a struggle for control as the newcomers began marking their homes with fascist and racist symbols and Cobb announced his intention to take over the town government, undertaking armed street patrols to intimidate anyone who opposed him. Michael Beach Nichols and Christopher K. Walker's documentary plays like a real-life thriller as it follows the back-and-forth strategies of the two sides. At the same time, *Welcome to Leith* is as scary as any Hollywood movie about ordinary folk who are threatened by a malevolent predator. Here, Cobb and his acolyte Kynan Dutton emerge as frighteningly cunning and articulate villains, while townsmen like Mayor Ryan Schock and Councilman Lee Cook appear to be desperate men under siege. In the process of telling this bizarre true story, the film also raises disturbing questions about home-grown extremism, free speech rights, and the effort required to preserve a traditional society in the face of outside forces that are determined to destroy it. Both nerve-wracking and thought-provoking, *Welcome to Leith* is infuriating and sobering in equal measure. Highly recommended. (F. Swietek)

What Our Fathers Did: A Nazi Legacy

★★★★★
Oscilloscope, 92 min., in
English, German & Ukrainian
w/English subtitles, not rated,
DVD: \$34.99



David Evans's disturbing documentary opens with a harsh sentence: "Imagine what it must be like to grow up as the child of a mass murderer." *What Our Fathers Did* details the family legacies carried by Niklas Frank and Horst von Wächter, whose fathers were high-ranking Nazi officials, and human rights lawyer Philippe Sands, whose family members perished in the Holocaust. The film brings the three men together as they try to come to terms with the Nazi war crimes, both on a historic scale and in relation to their personal histories. Frank is direct in acknowledging his father's actions and affirms the appropriateness of the Nuremberg Trial death sentence

that ended the latter's life. Von Wächter, on the other hand, has not fully accepted the sins of his father, defending him as a lower-level cog in the Nazi machinery and insisting that he was forced to carry out his duties. "I have so many documents from people who knew him personally who said he was a decent character," von Wächter insists. A visit by the men to a seemingly tranquil field that holds the mass grave of Nazi victims turns into a sequence of uncommon poignancy, offering a stunning revelation. An exceptional documentary about the long and painful shadow of the Nazi atrocities, this is highly recommended. **Editor's Choice.** [Note: this is also available with public performance rights for \$350 from Bullfrog Films, www.bullfrogfilms.com.] (P. Hall)

White Panther

★★★★
SISU, 88 min., in Hebrew &
Russian w/English subtitles, not
rated, DVD: \$24.95



A flawed but gutsy Israeli film, filmmaker Danni Reisfeld's *White Panther* is ostensibly about boxing, but the sport here seems more to be used as a way to explore cultural, religious, and ideological conflict. Alex (Yevgeny Orlov) is a young Russian tough living in a down-trodden Slav enclave in Tel Aviv. Alex's brother Yevgeny (Zura Vulkan Kartvelishvili) is the ringleader of a ragtag gaggle of Russki skinheads who, when not busy terrorizing their Jewish neighbors, are drinking vodka and coming up with embarrassingly bad hip-hop routines. But Alex's life suddenly takes an unexpected turn when he's arrested for street brawling. Arresting officer David (Ze'ev Revach), a Moroccan Jew who also happens to train local boxers, sees talent in Alex and cuts him a deal—giving Alex his freedom for a chance to train toward becoming an amateur boxing champ. But when Alex eventually falls for David's attractive, headstrong daughter, Yasmin (Meytal Gal), the seemingly altruistic trainer starts to exhibit a few nasty prejudices of his own. Less *Rocky* than message movie with a universal plea for tolerance, this Best Picture nominee in Israel is recommended. (M. Sandlin)

The Winter

★★★1/2
IndiePix, 105 min., in Greek
w/English subtitles, not rated,
DVD: \$24.95



This debut feature by Konstantinos Koutsoliotas, an SFX specialist, is predictably strong on the visual side, with the use of animation in several sequences enhancing a sense of magical realism. As compelling narrative, however, *The Winter* leaves something to be desired. The plot focuses on Niko (Theo Albanis), a struggling writer living in London who lies to

his mother back in Greece about being happy and successful. Cutting an eccentric figure in his tattered waistcoat and stovepipe hat, Niko finally runs out of money and decamps to the crumbling family homestead in Siatista, the small town in the mountains of northern Greece where he grew up. Here he begins to recall his boyhood, particularly the fantastic stories that his father (Vangelis Mourikis) breathlessly told him before bedtime. Niko's isolation—punctuated only by occasional encounters with a beautiful young towns-woman, a chatty old neighbor, and the stern village priest—leads him to seek answers to the questions that haunt him: why did his parents separate, and how did his father die? Eventually, Niko discovers the truth, but is also confronted by doubts concerning his own future: will he be a prisoner of his family's past, or can he break free of the ghosts that fill both the house and his dreams? *The Winter* opts for mood and atmosphere over narrative clarity, but the striking imagery still makes this a strong optional purchase. (F. Swietek)

The Wonders

★★★★
Oscilloscope, 110 min., in
Italian, French & German w/
English subtitles, not rated,
DVD: \$34.99



Filmmaker Alice Rohrwacher's *The Wonders* centers on a transplanted German-Italian family eking out a hardscrabble life as beekeepers in Tuscany. Hot-tempered father Wolfgang (Sam Louwyck) constantly battles locals hunting in the area or fertilizing their fields with chemicals that might poison his hives, while wife Angelica (Alba Rohrwacher) struggles with their four daughters, helped only occasionally by an outsider named Coco (Sabine Timoteo). Gelsomina (Maria Alexandra Lungu), the eldest daughter, is trying to grow up while being called on to tend to chores or her younger siblings, among whom ebullient Marinella (Agnese Graziani) can be especially trying. The financial demands of upgrading the honey-extracting equipment to meet government standards add to the stress. Wolfgang hopes to earn extra money by taking in a German delinquent (Luis Huilca Logroño) in a rehabilitation program, while Gelsomina sees a solution in entering the family in a TV contest called "Countryside Wonders," hosted by an ostentatiously costumed beauty (Monica Bellucci), which promises a prize to whichever clan proves most representative of the region. Unfortunately, family members are required to dress up in Tuscan peasant costumes and talk about their lives, which Wolfgang is loath to do. *The Wonders* doesn't follow a straightforward narrative line, serving up a meandering slice of rural life, but thanks to Lungu's affecting performance, this is a solid coming-of-age tale. Recommended. (F. Swietek)

You're Killing Me ★

Wolfe, 88 min., not rated,
DVD: \$24.95

Filmmaker Jim Hansen's repugnant horror-comedy never manages to get the tonal alchemy right: instead of being either dark or funny, it largely ends up coming across as offensive and tedious. Joe (Matthew McKel-ligon) is a roaming serial killer who targets gay men but has no problem spreading the bloodletting to women and members of his own family. The one interesting detail here is that Joe—who presents himself in emotional monotone—is quite open with everyone about what he does—stating flatly that he kills people. Yet all, including new suitor George (Jeffrey Self), assumes that he is being ironic or eccentric, which increases Joe's weird appeal. But when enough of his victims go missing, members of the small Hollywood clique they belonged to finally realize who and what Joe really is. The may-hem that ensues is supposed to be a hoot, but it's unpleasant at best. Featuring several grisly scenes that are at odds with the supposed humor, this misfire is not recommended. (T. Keogh)



Classic Films

Beat Street ★★1/2

Olive, 106 min., not rated,
DVD: \$19.95, Blu-ray: \$29.95

Released the same year as *Breakin'*, 1984's *Beat Street* is a time capsule capturing the street culture of break-dancing, rap, scratching, hip-hop, and graffiti art coming out of urban New York, specifically the Bronx. The loose story revolves around four friends (DJ Kenny, graffiti artist Ramon, aspiring manager Cholie, and Kenny's breakdancing little brother Lee) in the slums who meet a music student (Rae Dawn Chong) at City College who incorporates street culture into her classical pieces. While Kenny (Guy Davis) tries to break into the club scene, Ramon (Jon Chardiet) sets his sights on the great white whale of subway cars—a brand new, spotless train running through the Bronx like a ghost—before he gives up his dreams to take a job to support his girlfriend and their child. The story is mostly there to showcase the culture and talent on screen (guest artists include Grandmaster Melle Mel & the Furious Five, DJ Jazzy Jay, Rock Steady Crew, and Afrika Bambaataa), but it also depicts a neighborhood filled with abandoned buildings, hostile cops, crime, and unemployment. The performances are variable and the storylines familiar—rebellion, artistic passion, and art crossing cultural lines—but director Stan Lathan's *Beat Street* is a more interesting cinematic snapshot of

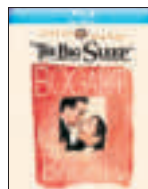


the roots of hip-hop than any of the other films back then that attempted to cash in on the culture. A strong optional purchase. (S. Axmaker)

The Big Sleep ★★★★★

Warner, 114 min., not rated,
Blu-ray: \$21.99

Humphrey Bogart stars as Philip Marlowe in Howard Hawks's 1946 adaptation of Raymond Chandler's classic detective novel, with Lauren Bacall his match as Vivian Rutledge, spoiled socialite daughter of Marlowe's client. The mystery revolves around blackmail, petty gangsters, and an underground pornography ring, but the movie is carried by the sexual chemistry of Bogart and Bacall in their second screen pairing (she made her debut opposite Bogart in *To Have and Have Not* and they became a real-life couple soon after). The snappy script and witty dialogue, written by William Faulkner and screenwriting greats Leigh Brackett and Jules Furthman, is rife with sexual metaphors and cutting bon mots, while the convoluted mystery serves as a backdrop for a charged romance and a contemplation of honor in the corrupt culture of L.A.'s underworld. Martha Vickers plays Vivian's reckless, sexually precocious younger sister, and Dorothy Malone is memorable in one of her first significant roles as a bookstore owner who helps out Marlowe with a case, and then closes shop for a little afternoon romance. The release was delayed for a year as Hawks added new scenes—such as a suggestive conversation between Bogie and Bacall in which horse racing becomes a not-so-thinly veiled metaphor for sex (“A lot depends on who’s in the saddle”)—and removed others, including a long expository sequence meant to clarify the complicated plot. This Blu-ray debut, part of the Warner Archive collection, features both versions, along with an introduction by film preservationist Robert Gitt, and a bonus featurette examining the differences between the two versions of the film. Arguably the greatest Chandler adaptation ever made, and the definitive pairing of legendary screen team Bogie and Bacall, this all-time American classic is highly recommended. **Editor's Choice.** (S. Axmaker)



Death by Hanging

★★★

Criterion, 118 min., in Japanese
w/English subtitles, not rated,
DVD: \$29.95, Blu-ray: \$39.95

Nagisa Oshima's 1968 drama opens with a stark, documentary-style presentation of the execution by hanging of a Korean known only as R., who was convicted of the rape and murder of two Japanese schoolgirls. But something goes very wrong: the condemned man comes down from the



gallows unconscious but still alive, creating chaos since the law does not allow for a do-over and both the Catholic chaplain and the doctor witnessing the execution prevent any attempt at a second try. Complicating matters is R. himself, who awakens from his ordeal with amnesia. Working with the police, the prison team concludes that the only way for R. to be executed again is for him to confess a second time to his crimes—but in order to restore his memory, they engage in an elaborate role-playing game that re-enacts the crime that brought R. to the gallows. Both a harsh commentary on capital punishment and a sour satire on the Japanese legal system (as well as prejudice faced by Koreans in Japan), *Death by Hanging* is a minor but intriguing early work by Oshima that is notable for its efforts (not wholly successful) of transferring Brechtian absurdist theater techniques to the cinema. Presented with a handsome 4K digital restoration that displays the black-and-white cinematography with a sharp crispness, extras include Oshima's 1965 documentary short *Diary of Yunbogi*, an interview with critic Tony Rayns, an essay by critic Howard Hampton, and Oshima's 1968 statement on his work. Recommended. (P. Hall)

Donovan's Brain ★★1/2

Kino Lorber, 83 min., not rated,
DVD: \$19.95, Blu-ray: \$29.95

In this 1953 adaptation of the titular 1942 novel by Curt Siodmak, Lew Ayres (famed as a young Dr. Kildare in a series of 1930s movies) stars as Dr. Cory, a driven scientist who sidesteps ethical considerations to remove the living brain of a dead millionaire killed in a car wreck. But the unauthorized secret experiment has unanticipated consequences: the millionaire was a tyrannical businessman and his disembodied brain takes over the mind of the scientist, using the latter to maintain a hold over the rich man's power and fortune (which his heirs now fight over). While Cory appears unruffled by the blanks in his memory, his assistant (an alcoholic surgeon played by Gene Evans) and his wife (a wooden Nancy Davis, before she became Mrs. Reagan) are very concerned about his sudden bipolar behavior. Directed by B-movie veteran Felix E. Feist, the film is a cult favorite thanks to both its premise and the memorable central prop of a disembodied brain floating in a tank. But it is driven more by lots of talk and evil millionaire melodrama than action or sci-fi complications, and it fails to develop the Frankenstein hubris and arrogance of Dr. Cory into any kind of dramatic conflict (he is awfully mild for a mad scientist and his sins are easily forgiven by all). Still, the film does have a definite following and will therefore be of some interest to sci-fi buffs. Featuring audio commentary by film historian Richard Harland Smith, this is a strong





THE CLUB

“★★★★★”
- *TIME OUT NEW YORK*

“CONFIRMS LARRAÍN AS ONE OF THE MORE GENUINE TALENTS WORKING IN CINEMA TODAY.”
- *THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER*

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES, SPANISH LANGUAGE
RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY, CATHOLIC CHURCH

	\$29.95 _{SRP}	MBFHE112 741360538986
	\$34.95 _{SRP}	MBFHE112 (BD) 741360538993

2016 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINEE FOR BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM



“A DENSE, ENRICHING MEDITATION ON THE LOUVRE, PARIS AND THE ROLE OF ART AS AN INTRINSIC PART OF THE SPIRIT OF CIVILIZATION.”
- *THE GUARDIAN*

FRANCOFONIA

LATEST THEATRICAL RELEASE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF *RUSSIAN ARK*

RUSSIAN CINEMA, ART HISTORY
FRENCH LANGUAGE, WWII

	\$29.95 _{SRP}	MBFHE113 741360539006
	\$34.95 _{SRP}	MBFHE113 (BD) 741360539013

PPR AND DSL NOW AVAILABLE: PPR: \$249 DSL: \$299 and \$499 PPR+DSL: \$599
Please Contact Courtney Vlaming at cvlaming@musicboxfilms.com or 312-508-5359

optional purchase. (S. Axmaker)

Edge of Seventeen

★★★

Strand, 103 min., not rated,
DVD: \$19.99, Blu-ray: \$27.99

Set in Sandusky, OH, circa 1984, filmmaker David Moreton's award-winning 1998 coming-of-age drama *Edge of Seventeen* follows a teenager as he navigates his last year of high school while coming to terms with and accepting his homosexuality. After spending the summer working at an amusement park, where he had a brief fling with an older co-worker named Rod, Eric (Chris Stafford) begins his senior year of high school confused and questioning his sexuality, while also setting his sights on moving to New York City after graduation to pursue a music degree. Eric's burgeoning sexual awakening is complicated by feelings for his best friend and confidant, Maggie (Tina Holmes), who carries a deep, long-burning torch for Eric. The pair eventually become a couple, living a high school romance by day while Eric spends his nights at a local gay club where he is embraced and welcomed. This dual life eventually takes its toll, both on Eric and the people who love him, leading to impulsive, often reckless behavior and forcing life-changing decisions. *Edge of Seventeen* is a bright, charismatic film that authentically embraces its 1980s cultural milieu, bouncing with music by the Eurythmics, Bronski Beat, Toni Basil, and Flock of Seagulls, and featuring wild fashions. Stafford is excellent as the conflicted teen struggling to find his true self while staying true to himself. Extras include a conversation with Moreton and writer Todd Stephens, and deleted scenes. Recommended. (P. Morehart)



The Emigrants/The New Land

★★★★

Criterion, 393 min., in Swedish
w/English subtitles, PG, DVD:
3 discs, \$39.95; Blu-ray: 2
discs, \$49.95

Swedish filmmaker Jan Troell's epics *The Emigrants* and *The New Land*, both based on novels by author Vilhelm Moberg, follow a farming family's migration from a rural Swedish province to America in the mid-19th century. Bergman regulars Max von Sydow and Liv Ullmann star as Karl Oskar and Kristina, a couple who uproot their family to pursue a fresh start in the New World (along with several other villagers) after enduring poverty, hunger, and the tragic death of a child. Released in 1971, *The Emigrants*, which was nominated for five Academy Awards including Best Foreign Language Film and Best Picture, details the unrest that prompts the move, the physically and emotionally taxing journey across the Atlantic to New York



City, and the arduous cross-country trek to Minnesota where the group settles. *The New Land*, which followed in 1972, charts the lives of the new Americans up through the early 1890s. The two films, each running over three hours in length, are masterworks. Troell is a meticulous and patient filmmaker, capturing details within the environment and subtleties from his actors (Von Sydow and Ullmann again prove why they are Sweden's greatest thespians) that combine to make the films seem lived-in and authentic. Handsomely re-mastered, this Criterion double bill also includes an introduction by critic John Simon, a conversation between film scholar Peter Cowie and Troell, the 2005 retrospective "making-of" documentary *To Paint with Pictures*, and an essay by critic Terrence Rafferty. Highly recommended. **Editor's Choice.** (P. Morehart)

The Gallant Hours

★★★

Kino Lorber, 115 min., not
rated, Blu-ray: \$29.95

James Cagney delivers one of his most restrained performances as Admiral William "Bull" Halsey in this 1960 World War II drama directed (and narrated) by actor Robert Montgomery. Bookended by scenes depicting Halsey's retirement from the Navy in 1947, the bulk of the film portrays Halsey's canny leadership in the South Pacific during 1942-43, when he and his hard-pressed forces held off an attempt by the numerically superior Japanese to retake the airfield on Guadalcanal—a key victory in the battle of the Solomon Islands. Halsey also used intercepted intelligence to down a plane carrying Isoroku Yamamoto, commander-in-chief of the Japanese fleet. The movie itself is as measured as Cagney's performance, eschewing battle sequences altogether, and concentrating instead on Halsey's conversations with his staff to illustrate the decision-making process by which he carefully and methodically (and often through sheer intuition) determined the strategy that would secure for the Allies one of the most decisive turning-points in the Pacific war. The quasi-documentary approach is talky and sometimes too subdued, while the curious music score—consisting of choral hymns—lends the film an unduly hagiographical tone. Still, the sincerity of the storytelling, coupled with Cagney's fine performance (a complete reversal of his bombastic naval captain in *Mister Roberts* five years earlier) makes this worthwhile. Bowing on Blu-ray, this is recommended. (F. Swietek)



Gilda

★★★

Criterion, 110 min., not rated, DVD: \$29.95, Blu-ray: \$39.95

Rita Hayworth is at her most iconic in filmmaker Charles Vidor's *Gilda*, a 1946 film noir classic costarring Glenn Ford as Johnny Far-

rell, an American tough guy in Buenos Aires, and George Macready as the owner of a nightclub and illegal casino who hires Johnny as his club manager. Hayworth is the titular glamorous new wife of the owner and her entrance is pure Hollywood star-making: a stunning close-up as she whips her head into frame, her hair lashing back and revealing her bright face, and wide, mischievous grin. *Gilda* has a plot involving a monopoly on tungsten and German investors who may be Nazi criminals in hiding (although apart from a headline reading "Germany Surrenders," no mention is made of the war), but the real drama revolves around the sexual tension and vicious punishments that former lovers Johnny and Gilda inflict on one another. Hayworth plays the prowling sex kitten and even performs a symbolic striptease on the nightclub floor while singing "Put the Blame on Mame." Sexual indiscretions are suggested but ultimately denied in a contrived happy ending that contradicts everything leading up to it. It was not uncommon for Hollywood films of the era to placate the production code and the abrupt close was a hint to some audiences that it was not to be believed. *Gilda* was one of the most suggestive films of its time and the emotional violence here still draws symbolic blood. Sure to appeal to fans of film noir, classic melodramas, and Hollywood glamour, this newly restored edition is presented with extras including audio commentary by film critic Richard Schickel, a 1964 episode of TV's *Hollywood and the Stars* devoted to Hayworth, a new interview with film noir historian Eddie Muller, and a 2010 discussion of the film by filmmakers Martin Scorsese and Baz Luhrmann. Recommended. (S. Axmaker)



I Confess

★★★

Warner, 94 min., not rated,
Blu-ray: \$21.99

Montgomery Clift stars—in the only film he made with Alfred Hitchcock—as Father Logan, a priest who hears a murder confession and then becomes the prime suspect. Based on a 1902 French play, Hitchcock moves the story to present day Canada (the film was released in 1953), which is still healing from the wounds of World War II. Clift's character turned to the priesthood after returning from the war, while the killer (O.E. Hasse) is a European immigrant who came to Canada to begin a new life with his frail wife. Anne Baxter costars as a married woman who was being blackmailed by the murder victim and Karl Malden is the inspector leading the investigation. Clift delivers an intense performance as a haunted man, suggesting depths of regret, anxiety, and torment in his controlled sad-eyed performance, and



Hitchcock plays with the viewer's sympathies for the real killer, a man who survived terrible hardships but slowly reveals the corrupted soul that plants evidence to frame the priest. The film is set in Quebec, where Hitchcock makes memorable use of the distinctive architecture that looks more like a European capital than a modern North American city. *I Confess* is neither as thrilling nor as entertaining as Hitchcock's most famous films, and much of it consists of an extended flashback and a courtroom scene (never one of Hitch's strengths), but the story is a natural fit for Hitchcock's interest in themes related to guilt, secrets, and innocents accused of crimes. Making its Blu-ray debut with extras including a "making-of" featurette and newsreel footage from the film's premiere, this is recommended. (S. Axmaker)

I Knew Her Well

★★★★1/2

Criterion, 115 min., in Italian w/English subtitles, not rated, DVD: \$29.95, Blu-ray: \$39.95

Stefania Sandrelli stars as Adriana, a country girl in Rome trying to break into show business in this bittersweet 1965 drama by director Antonio Pietrangeli. Young and beautiful, Adriana is able to get by on her looks—taking temp jobs between modeling gigs and screen tests—and she's savvy enough to understand that sex is a commodity to be traded for favors from press agents, managers, and minor celebrities. She's also far from cynical, at least initially, as she plays the game and enjoys the nightlife, but also a bit naïve, constantly hooking up with charming, good-looking cads who have a habit of abandoning her. *I Knew Her Well* presents a satirical portrait of the shallow celebrity culture and Roman nightlife depicted in Fellini's *La Dolce Vita*, while also suggesting the alienating effects of modern life found in Antonioni's movies, all with the light touch of a frothy Italian comedy. Sandrelli plays Adriana as a seemingly frivolous, capricious young woman with nothing on her mind, a kind of Italian Holly Golightly minus the cynical calculation. Yet she's more perceptive than anyone realizes as she navigates the mercenary world with energetic optimism before growing disillusioned during the final act. *I Knew Her Well* doesn't have the critical reputation of the films of Fellini, Antonioni, or Visconti but it is a perceptive social commentary and a touching human drama. Newly restored, extras include new interviews with Sandrelli and film scholar Luca Barattoni, and archival footage of Sandrelli's audition. Highly recommended. (S. Axmaker)

The Kid ★★★★★

Criterion, 53 min., not rated, DVD: \$29.95, Blu-ray: \$39.95

Charlie Chaplin was already an undisputed master of the short comedy form when he

made the leap to feature filmmaking with *The Kid*, a short 1921 feature that combines his style of slapstick comedy with pathos and heart-tugging sentimentality. "A comedy with a smile—and perhaps a tear," read the opening titles, announcing Chaplin's shift into more emotionally-grounded films. Jackie Coogan is the kid of the title, the abandoned illegitimate child of an unmarried woman (Edna Purviance), and the spunky actor proves a spirited match for Chaplin's familiar Tramp both in comedy and pathos. The Tramp walked a fine line between chaotic force and lovesick fool in his short comedies but was never particularly sentimental or generous. *The Kid* gives Chaplin's signature character much greater depth, evolving from scruffy street survivor to reluctant protector to acting as a committed father to the sweet young tyke. The scene where the police try to take the kid away from his loving but impoverished life in the slums is indeed moving, in large part due to the impassioned emoting of Coogan, who almost steals the show from Chaplin with his charisma and wide-eyed innocence. Almost: Chaplin was the biggest movie star in the world when he made *The Kid* and here he delivers brilliant slapstick sequences that are as graceful and inventive as they are funny. Remastered in 4K and edited to match Chaplin's 1972 re-release (with Chaplin's original score), extras include audio commentary by Chaplin historian Charles Maland, featurettes, archival interviews, deleted scenes, a 1922 short with Chaplin and Coogan, and an essay by film scholar Tom Gunning. Highly recommended. (S. Axmaker)

Let There Be Light

★★★★1/2

Olive, 281 min., not rated, DVD: 2 discs, \$24.95; Blu-ray: \$29.95

John Huston was one of many American filmmakers who offered his talents to the armed services during World War II, but he arguably made the greatest documentaries about the war. *Let There Be Light* features all four films he helmed for the Army Signal Corps, beginning with *Winning Your Wings* (1942), a recruitment film narrated by Jimmy Stewart. *Report from the Aleutians* (1943) depicts the routine of military life at a remote base in the frigid Aleutian Islands between Alaska and Russia (it's also the only film shot in color), but Huston's tone becomes darker in *San Pietro* (1945), which documents the battle to take a small Italian village from occupying German forces. The scenes of bombed-out ruins and dead soldiers are real but the battle itself was restaged by Huston



**DARK
HOLLOW
FILMS**

2016 New Releases!



MOTHERING INSIDE

Incarcerated women participate in a revolutionary prison reform project for families.



DRYLAND

Reveals a paradoxical struggle between technological advancement and ongoing rural decline.



THE BOMB HUNTERS

The people of a Berlin suburb join forces to rid their town of more than 300 undetonated bombs dropped by Allied forces during WWII.

www.darkhollowfilms.com

COHEN MEDIA GROUP PRESENTS

A MARRIED WOMAN

DIRECTED BY JEAN-LUC GODARD

STREET DATE: **MAY 24, 2016** SRP: **\$29.98 / \$39.98**

A Married Woman is an often overlooked masterwork from Godard's most productive period. Subtitled *Fragments of a film* shot in 1964, in black and white, Godard creates a modernist collage that is beautifully shot by Godard's longtime cinematographer Raoul Coutard.



THE FILMS OF MAURICE PIALAT - VOLUME 2: UNDER THE SUN OF SATAN

DIRECTED BY MAURICE PIALAT

STREET DATE: **JUNE 14, 2016** SRP: **\$39.98 / \$49.98**

Based on Georges Bernanos' novel of the same name (also the source for Robert Bresson's *Diary of a Country Priest* and *Mouchette*), the film earned director Pialat a Palme d'Or at the 1987 Cannes Film Festival. Cohen Film Collection presents this unforgettable drama in a new 2k restoration, along with over two hours of extras.

GOING AWAY

DIRECTED BY NICOLE GARCIA

STREET DATE: **JUNE 21, 2016** SRP: **\$24.98**

Baptiste is a loner. A gifted primary teacher living in the south of France, he knows how to bring their schoolwork alive for his pupils but never remains in the same job for more than a term. When he is left unwittingly in charge of Mathias one weekend, the boy takes Baptiste to his mother Sandra. For one enchanted day, a powerful spell unites them, the beginnings of a family for those who do not have one. But it won't last.



THE FILMS OF MAURICE PIALAT - VOLUME 3: VAN GOGH

DIRECTED BY MAURICE PIALAT

STREET DATE: **JULY 12, 2016** SRP: **\$39.98 / \$49.98**

After leaving the asylum, Vincent Van Gogh settles in Auvers-sur-Oise, in the home of Doctor Gachet, an art lover and patron. Pialat's examination of the last 60 days of Van Gogh's life earned him a Palme d'Or nomination and stands as his finest masterpiece.

THE LAST DIAMOND

DIRECTED BY ERIC BARBIER

STREET DATE: **JULY 26, 2016** SRP: **\$24.98**

Simon Carrarra has just been released from prison and is now on parole. His friend Albert persuades him back to his old ways with the idea of a big-time heist of a celebrated diamond in Antwerp; The "Florentine". Features an interview with director Eric Barbier and stars Bérénice Bejo and Yvan Attal.



"EXCELLENT."

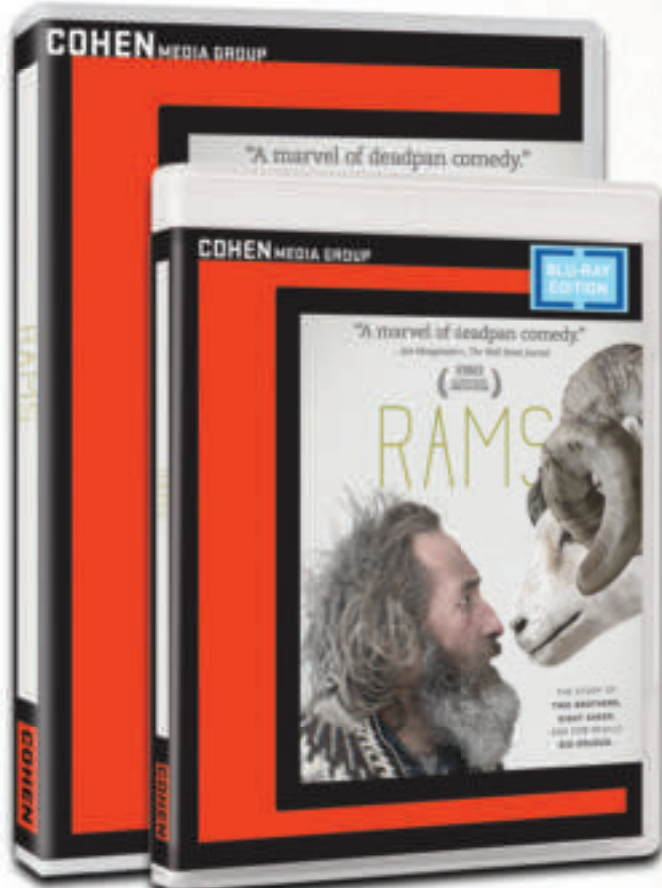
- KENNETH TURAN, *LOS ANGELES TIMES*

"TENDER AND POIGNANT."

- A.O. SCOTT, *THE NEW YORK TIMES*

"A MARVEL OF DEADPAN COMEDY WITH AN IMPROBABLY BEAUTIFUL CLIMAX."

- JOE MORGENSTERN, *THE WALL STREET JOURNAL*



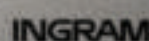
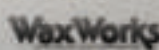
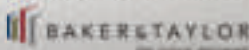
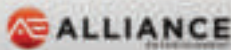
RAMS - DIRECTED BY GRÍMUR HÁKONARSON

STREET DATE:
JUNE 28, 2016

SRP:
\$29.98 / \$34.98

In a secluded valley in Iceland, Gummi and Kiddi live side by side, tending to their sheep. Their ancestral sheep-stock is considered one of the country's best and the two brothers are repeatedly awarded for their prized rams who carry an ancient lineage. Although they share the land and a way of life, Gummi and Kiddi have not spoken to each other in four decades. *Rams* was Iceland's official entry in the foreign film category for the Oscars® and won the Un Certain Regard prize at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival.

Contact your Sales Representative:

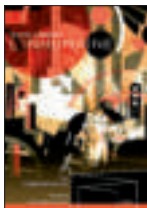


for maximum dramatic impact (*San Pietro* joined the National Film Registry in 1991). His final service film, *Let There Be Light* (1946), a powerful portrait of mentally and emotionally scarred men returning from battle, follows the treatment of soldiers suffering from “psychoneurotic” damage, what we today call post-traumatic stress disorder. It also shows black and white soldiers living and working together before the services were officially integrated (censored for 35 years, the film was restored just a few years ago). Extras include an introduction to the films, raw footage from *San Pietro*, and *Shades of Gray* (1948)—a remake of *Let There Be Light* with actors recreating scenes from the documentary. An important and provocative compilation of films capturing World War II history, this is highly recommended. (S. Axmaker)

L'Inhumaine ★★★1/2

Flicker Alley, 122 min., not rated, Blu-ray: \$39.95

The title of this 1924 silent film translates as *The Inhuman Woman*, who here is acclaimed singer Claire Lescot (played by real-life opera diva Georgette Leblanc), a woman who holds exclusive salon get-togethers in her mansion where an all-male guest list competes for her attentions. Claire enjoys the power she wields over the rich and powerful men of Paris society until she spurns young lovesick engineer Einar (Jaques Catelain), and the latter drives over a cliff to his death. The suicide shocks Claire out of her arrogance and threatens to destroy her career but what seems to be a tragic tale ultimately transforms into a romantic melodrama of jealousy, vengeance, and forgiveness. *L'Inhumaine* is a cinematic showcase for the modernism of its day, from the storytelling to the design of the sets. The animated opening credits (designed by painter Fernand Léger) describe it as “A fantasia by Marcel L'Herbier,” and the film features stunning mansions designed by architect Robert Mallet-Stevens, interiors by future filmmakers Alberto Cavalcanti and Claude Autant-Lara, costumes and decors by Paul Poiret, and a magnificent fantasy of a modern laboratory, more spectacular than functional with its moving parts and electrical arcs zapping across the screen (designed and constructed by Léger). The melodrama of the story is simplistic but the imagery, designs, and cinematic brio are thrilling and the film is a landmark of early French cinema. This restored edition looks gorgeous and features color tinting as conceived by the director, along with a choice of two excellent new musical scores. Extras include behind-the-scenes featurettes and a booklet. A must for any serious silent film collection, this is highly recommended. (S. Axmaker)



Nikkatsu Diamond Guys: Volume 1 ★★★

Arrow, 3 discs, 269 min., in Japanese w/English subtitles, not rated, Blu-ray/DVD Combo: \$49.95

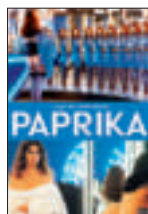
In the late 1950s, the Japanese film company Nikkatsu inaugurated a “Diamond Line” of genre films showcasing top stars. This first volume should especially appeal to aficionados of *film noir*, since two of the three films are in atmospheric black-and-white and favor typically unusual camera angles. Seijun Suzuki's *Voice Without A Shadow* (1958), starring Hideaki Nitani as a reporter, is centered on a telephone operator who accidentally hears the voice of a killer with a very distinctive laugh; three years later, she's convinced the laugh belongs to a business associate her husband brings home for dinner. And that's only the start of this twisty tale. Toshio Masuda's *Red Pier* (1958) is set in Kobe, where a suave young crook (Yujiro Ishihara) is targeted by both local mobsters and the cops after he witnesses a killing. The third film, Buichi Saitō's *The Rambling Guitarist* (1959), shot in color and clearly aimed at the youth audience, stars Akira Kobayashi as a footloose, ultra-cool musician who takes a job with a mobster and then becomes romantically involved with the man's lovely daughter. Ultimately, he will turn on his boss, occasioning a prolonged fight with a large gang in the headquarters nightclub. All are essentially exploitation movies, but have held up well and are surprisingly enjoyable, overall. Extras include interviews with Japanese film historian Jasper Sharp on Nitani and Ishihara, stills galleries, and a booklet with essays. Recommended. (F. Swietek)



Paprika ★★★

Cult Epics, 116 min., in Italian w/English subtitles, not rated, DVD: \$24.95, Blu-ray: \$29.95

Italian filmmaker Tinto Brass's name has become synonymous with bawdy cinematic sex since the mid-1970s, when he leapt from the avant-garde to borderline hardcore with *Salon Kitty* and actual hardcore with the big-budget *Caligula*. Subsequent years saw Brass become a full-fledged skin auteur, albeit one with style. *Paprika*, a 1991 adaptation of John Cleland's 1748 erotic novel *Fanny Hill*, shifts the original story from 18th-century England to post-WWII Italy, following a young woman (Debora Caprioglio) whose temporary job working as a prostitute unexpectedly becomes a lifelong profession. Given the name “Paprika” by the madam at her first brothel, she learns the ways of the trade while travelling from brothel to bordello across the country and, eventually, the world. *Paprika* is a bombastic



sex comedy, over-the-top and cartoonish, as are the film's characters—who are loud, garish, and proud of their sexuality (with the Italian filmmaker's penchant for prosthetic penises). Brass wraps the soft-focus action in colorful, exquisitely framed shot sequences and set-pieces (imagine Federico Fellini directing porn), but underneath the sexy spectacle lies a harsh social critique. Paprika sees firsthand the degradation, misogyny, violence, and misfortune that accompanies her profession, directly from pimps and johns, and indirectly from the church and government. It's a dangerous life, but Paprika manages to rise above the fray to harness and use her talents to her advantage, giving the film an oddly affirming message. Extras include a behind-the-scenes featurette, and a lobby card video gallery. Recommended for collections with classic erotica. (P. Morehart)

Paris Belongs to Us ★★★

Criterion, 141 min., in French w/English subtitles, not rated, DVD: \$29.95, Blu-ray: \$39.95

This 1961 debut feature from the late French New Wave founding member Jacques Rivette makes its American home video debut in a beautiful Criterion edition. Long overshadowed by fellow filmmakers Francois Truffaut, Jean-Luc Godard, Éric Rohmer, and others, Rivette's idiosyncratic, collaborative films have generated renewed interest with the recent releases of his epic *Out 1* and playful *Le Pont du Nord*, and viewers can see the birth of his themes and preoccupations in *Paris Belongs to Us*. Anne (Betty Schneider), a small-town girl attending school in Paris, becomes involved in a theater group led by the passionate but broke Gérard (Giani Esposito), whose rehearsals for *Pericles* must keep finding new spaces as cast members drop out. Anne is also introduced to a vague and vast international conspiracy by American-in-exile Philip (Daniel Crohem), a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who is fleeing the blacklist. The film hopscoches through Paris (some rehearsal spaces are marvelous little pockets hidden in the city) and spirals around itself while Anne plays detective searching for a missing musical recording, the last work by a deceased Spanish guitarist. Where other films of the New Wave look to the future, this is an accomplished, engaging, fascinating portrait of Paris at the end of the 1950s as the arts seem mired in tradition, and political and social energy is suppressed at all levels (also look for filmmakers Claude Chabrol and Godard in small roles). A minor classic, newly restored, extras here include Rivette's 1956 short film *Le coup du berger*, an interview with film historian Richard Neupert, and an essay by critic Luc Sante. Recommended. (S. Axmaker)



Pray for Death ★★1/2

Arrow, 92 min., R, Blu-ray: \$29.95

During the 1980s vogue for ninja movies, Shô Kosugi, who had been living in the U.S. for more than a decade, showed off his martial arts skills in a series that included this 1985 starring vehicle directed by Gordon Hessler. Kosugi plays Akira, a man who was once a member of a secret army of "black ninjas" but then abandoned a life of violence for one of domesticity. Akira moves to Los Angeles with his wife and two young sons in hopes of opening a restaurant, but the family meets with immediate hostility from locals, including mobsters looking to retrieve a valuable necklace that they believe Akira is hiding. When Akira's loved ones are threatened, it's inevitable that he will give up his passivity and deal with the gangsters using the fighting techniques he mastered long ago. While this is hardly an imaginative plot, Hessler paints an impressively grim picture of the unwelcoming California community, and Kosugi demonstrates some remarkable moves in prolonged action sequences that are adroitly choreographed and filmed. This Blu-ray debut includes both an excellent remaster of the original R-rated theatrical release, as well as a bonus unrated version (with a few minutes of additional gore, although the extra scenes are not restored). Other extras include interviews (one archival, the other new) with Kosugi. A strong optional purchase. (F. Swietek)



Pressure Point ★★1/2

Olive, 89 min., not rated, Blu-ray: \$29.95

Sidney Poitier is a veteran psychiatrist who helps a frustrated younger colleague (played with animated gusto by Peter Falk) with a difficult patient by sharing a story from his own past in this 1962 drama. As a young psychiatrist working in a federal penitentiary in 1942, Poitier's character (the characters are unnamed) was assigned to the case of an angry white supremacist (Bobby Darin) convicted of sedition for his hate speech and pro-Hitler leanings. The young man can't sleep, is haunted by nightmares, and he takes his anger out on the psychiatrist with jibes and insults. But with the encouragement of his boss, the psychiatrist perseveres and helps the inmate through his problems. Or, some of them, anyway. *Pressure Point* is a true psychological drama, taking place almost entirely in therapy sessions, taking a Freudian approach to psychological trauma. Filmmaker Hubert Cornfield dramatizes the bigot's memories in highly stylized fashion—not flashbacks so much as experiences etched into his mind that are presented in an expressionist manner with minimalist sets and theatrical lighting. One of the many films of the era that con-



fronted issues of racism and bigotry, *Pressure Point* approaches the topic with seriousness and integrity, but it is also heavy-handed and comes across as somewhat simplistic when viewed from our contemporary perspective. But Poitier brings a strength and dignity to the role, and Barry Gordon also shines (playing Darin's character in his memories). A strong optional purchase. (S. Axmaker)

The Purple Plain ★★★

Kino Lorber, 100 min., not rated, Blu-ray: \$29.95

Gregory Peck is a stalwart hero in Robert Parrish's 1954 World War II survival tale. Peck stars as Forrester, a Canadian pilot serving in the RAF in Burma. He's known for recklessness, and indeed harbors a death wish, unable to come to terms with the loss of his wife during a German raid on London. But when Forrester is assigned to fly an officer over dangerous territory and the plane is brought down by enemy fire, he's faced with the task of carrying his severely wounded navigator over miles of rugged territory to safety, all the while having to put up with the endless complaints of the plane's passenger, Blore (Maurice Denham), who insists that they abandon the injured man, and eventually sneaks off on his own—leaving Forrester to try to save his comrade by himself. *The Purple Plain* also features a romantic subplot centered on Forrester's dalliance with a lovely native girl who has revived his desire to live, but the meat of the tale lies in the long slog toward a river that offers hope of survival, and here Peck brings his customarily steely resolve to his character's determination to leave no man behind. Shot on location by Oscar-winning cinematographer Geoffrey Unsworth, *The Purple Plain* sometimes feels like an ordeal for viewers, but it's a solid, realistic tale of heroism under extreme pressure. Recommended. (F. Swietek)



Serial ★1/2

Olive, 93 min., R, DVD: \$24.99, Blu-ray: \$29.99

Not to be confused with the addictive podcast of the same name, Bill Perky's 1980 comedy *Serial* is ostensibly a social satire of late 1970s culture centered on affluent suburbanites who are getting in touch with their feelings, turning vegetarian, and espousing pop therapy clichés. Set in the thoroughly white suburbs of Marin County, it stars Martin Mull as a white-collar executive with a red meat sensibility, with Tuesday Weld costarring as his vegetarian wife, who becomes increasingly frustrated with her husband's sneering attitude toward her consciousness-raising interests. They separate and try out different lifestyles while their teenage



daughter runs away to join a cult. The film takes swipes at therapy, environmentalism, free love, rampant divorce, and the hypocrisy of being more concerned with appearances than meaningful action, but it is more broadside spoof than satire and Mull's ostensible voice of reason is as much a hypocrite as any of the figures of ridicule, among them Tom Smothers as a new-age guru and Peter Bonerz as a clueless therapist. *Serial* has dated badly, although it does feature the late cult horror actor Christopher Lee in one of the most unusual roles of his career as a high-powered executive who spends his weekends as a gay biker gang leader. Not recommended. (S. Axmaker)

Speechless ★★★

Olive, 99 min., PG-13, Blu-ray: \$29.95

Michael Keaton and Geena Davis star in this harmless but unmemorable romantic comedy as speechwriters for opposing candidates in a statewide election in New Mexico. She's an idealist with a flawed underdog candidate, while he's a former sitcom writer hired to punch up the speeches of the glib frontrunner. They meet over a bottle of sleeping pills in the hotel drugstore on a sleepless night, and are—of course—instant soul mates, bantering about politics and pop culture, even after they discover that they are working for opposing campaigns. The usual complications arise: her former fiancée (a charming but egotistical combat reporter played by Christopher Reeve) shows up, while his boss just happens to be his ex-wife (when a leak causes a scandal, he's convinced that she betrayed him). The political dirty tricks are decidedly mild in this supposedly hardball campaign and the cynicism is too generic to carry much weight. Ron Underwood directs with a soft touch, but while the leads are amiable, the film itself lacks much in the way of engaging personality. Watch for cameos by comedian Steven Wright and Spinal Tap member Harry Shearer as sitcom stars who appear in a campaign spot. Optional. (S. Axmaker)



Spies ★★1/2

Kino Lorber, 150 min., not rated, DVD: \$24.95, Blu-ray: \$29.95

Fritz Lang's adrenaline-driven 1928 thriller harkens back to the cliffhanger fun of early 1920s adventure serials while also looking forward to James Bond-style international espionage adventure. A super spy and financial mastermind with the ominous name of Haghi runs a spy network under the cover of a bank: his secret headquarters are literally located beneath the foundation of his public bank. A master of disguise, Haghi controls a vast



surveillance and communications network, which he uses to steal state secrets. Rudolf Klein-Rogge, who previously played Dr. Mabuse in other Lang films and the mad scientist Rotwang in Lang's masterpiece *Metropolis*, stars as Haghi, and he's joined by a beautiful, cold-blooded female double agent, colorful henchmen, a femme fatale, and the heroic "good" spy who falls in love with his female nemesis. This was quite high-tech for its day, with sci-fi buttonhole cameras, along with the classic invisible ink messages and hidden peepholes, and *Spies* weaves together assassinations, seductions, drugged victims, and a spectacular train wreck through the spy wars yarn. Lang creates a fluid, fast-paced, visually inventive film with enough intrigue, double dealing, secret identities, and criminal conspiracies in the underworld of pre-Nazi Germany to fill up an entire serial. Presented here in its recently restored original full-length version, extras include a retrospective "making-of" documentary. Highly recommended. (S. Axmaker)

The Taviani Brothers Collection: *Padre Padrone* / *The Night of the Shooting Stars* / *Kaos*

★★★1/2

Cohen, 3 discs, 545 min., in Italian w/English subtitles, not rated, DVD: \$39.98, Blu-ray: \$49.98



Italian filmmaking siblings Paolo and Vittorio Taviani have been collaborating on films for over 50 years, drawing from the cinematic traditions of neo-realism, literary magical realism and fantasy, and social drama. This compilation of three of their most acclaimed films kicks off with *Padre Padrone*, which won the Palme d'Or at the 1977 Cannes Film Festival. Adapted from the 1975 autobiographical novel by Italian scholar Gavino Ledda, the story recounts the life of a young boy in Sardinia who is pulled out of school by his tyrannical father and forced to live the almost solitary life of a shepherd while he struggles to educate himself. *The Night of the Shooting Stars*, a delicate and delirious tale of war and survival as seen through the eyes of a 6-year-old girl, is an epic filled with a sense of wonder and absurdity amidst the acceptance of brutality and death—a winner of the Grand Prix at the 1982 Cannes Film Festival. Finally, 1984's *Kaos* is an anthology film featuring four tales of life in old Sicily based on the short stories of Luigi Pirandello, and it includes an epilogue starring Taviani favorite Omero Antonutti as Pirandello. Filled with scenes of rural beauty and magical realism, the epic *Kaos* won two David di Donatello Awards (the Italian equivalent to the Oscars). All three Italian classics are newly restored, and presented here with a bonus interview with the Taviani brothers. Highly recommended. (S. Axmaker)

These Three ★★★1/2

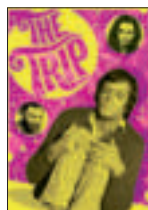
Warner, 93 min., not rated, DVD: \$21.99



Today, it's hard to understand the public furor that arose over Lillian Hellman's 1934 Broadway smash *The Children's Hour*, a play about two women—owners of a private girls' school—whose lives were destroyed by the lies of a malicious student. The problem was the nature of the accusation—namely, that the pair were in a lesbian relationship. At the time, even a veiled reference to homosexuality was deemed morally unacceptable and the play was banned in Boston and Chicago. When it was filmed in 1936 as *These Three*, the plot underwent major surgery: now, the claim was that one of the women was having an affair with the fiancé of the other, the handsome town doctor. Nonetheless, this refurbished adaptation is still a beautifully-made melodrama, thanks to sensitive direction from William Wyler, excellent performances by Miriam Hopkins, Merle Oberon, and Joel McCrea (along with a sterling supporting cast, including Bonita Granville, who is frighteningly fierce as the malevolent child), and exceptional cinematography by the legendary Gregg Toland. In 1962, Wyler directed *The Children's Hour*—a remake of the play with the lesbian theme restored—but it was done so timidly that it can't hold a candle *These Three*, which remains a powerful cinematic work. Highly recommended. (F. Swietek)

The Trip ★★★

Olive, 82 min., not rated, DVD: \$14.95, Blu-ray: \$29.95



Arguably the most famous of all '60s "head" films, 1967's *The Trip* stars Peter Fonda as Paul Groves, a filmmaker who has sold out to become a successful director of TV commercials. Going through a divorce and disillusioned with his career, Groves turns to a friend (Bruce Dern) to guide him through an LSD trip. "I really think I'll find something out about myself," he explains, and the film takes us into his perspective, weaving in and out of Groves's fantasies while charting his freaked out journey through L.A. to find himself. His world comes alive in intense colors, as the familiar and the mundane become alien and exciting (Groves becomes entranced by the spinning clothes at a laundromat) and he slips into flashbacks (his memory of meeting his wife, played by Susan Strasberg, is a love scene with psychedelic lighting), experiences paranoia, and has surreal visions, even imagining his own death. Jack Nicholson wrote the screenplay and Dennis Hopper costars as a counterculture buddy who tells stories of his wildest trips at a party. For all its conventional insights

and visual clichés, *The Trip*—directed by B-movie king Roger Corman—is one of the rare '60s films to acknowledge the possible therapeutic effects of mind-altering drugs. The producers added a cautionary introduction and changed the ending to suggest that the experience damaged Groves's life, but this release restores Corman's original cut and the differences significantly effect the meaning of the movie. Both a counterculture classic and a nostalgic look back at the '60s, this is recommended. (S. Axmaker)

The Vikings ★★★

Kino Lorber, 116 min., not rated, DVD: \$19.95, Blu-ray: \$29.95



The timing is good for this Blu-ray debut of the splashy 1958 Hollywood adventure *The Vikings*, given the popularity of the History Channel series *Vikings* and BBC America's *The Last Kingdom*, both centered on the infamous Norsemen. Set in the middle ages, when the Vikings pillaged the English coast, *The Vikings* is pure barbarian fantasy, with Kirk Douglas playing the lusty Viking Prince Einar, the "only son in wedlock" of King Ragnar (a cackling, wild-eyed Ernest Borgnine) and Tony Curtis as his defiant slave Eric, who is in reality the long-lost heir to the British throne. When the Vikings kidnap a Welsh princess (Janet Leigh) betrothed to the King of England, Eric rescues her from the Viking clutches and falls in love with her. This is, of course, pure Hollywood hokum, with the Vikings reduced to pagan cartoon barbarians who make sport of terrorizing and ravishing women and take pride in torture and murder, but it is spectacular-looking hokum. The great cinematographer Jack Cardiff turns the Norway locations into a lush Valhalla on Earth. And faced with an absurd story, journeyman director Richard Fleischer goes for the gusto, serving up brawling Viking parties, furious sieges, and clanging broadsword battles. The sexual politics are also decidedly retro, but this colorful, energetic, and hearty epic featuring star power to burn was an enormous hit in its day and spawned a huge wave of Viking movies. Recommended. (S. Axmaker)

Video Librarian Online

Visit Video Librarian Online (www.videolibrarian.com) during May and June for DVD/Blu-ray-specific comments added to the video movies reviewed here, as well as new reviews, including *The Choice*, *Dirty Grandpa*, *The Finest Hours*, *Gods of Egypt*, *Ride Along 2*, *A Royal Night Out*, *Triple 9*, *Where to Invade Next*, *Zoolander No. 2*, and much more!



A VENUE FOR THE END OF THE WORLD

Haunted by uncanny similarities between Nazi stage techniques and the showmanship employed by modern entertainers, a filmmaker investigates the dangers of audience manipulation and leader worship.

Featuring Ted Leo

(Ted Leo and the Pharmacists)

Featuring Ian Anderson

(Member of the rock band Jethro Tull)

Featuring Dick Cavett

(The Dick Cavett show)

\$16.95 SRP / UPC: 18783000440 /
SKU: BDVD0440 / 95 min color



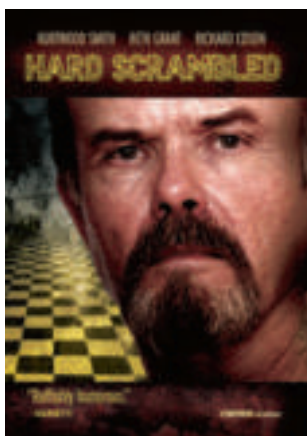
BIRDS OF NEPTUNE

For Rachel growing up requires letting go of the haunting memory of her deceased parents, the influence of her older sister Mona, the masking of long buried secrets and inherited spiritual practices. When things start to disintegrate in her childhood house with the presence of a stranger, she finds ground in her music and in the assurance of a new friendship.

"Powerful. Gut Wrenching. Beautiful"

—New York Examiner

\$16.95 SRP / UPC: 187830004382 /
SKU: BDVD0438/ 97 min color



HARD SCRAMBLED

Haunted by uncanny similarities between Nazi stage techniques and the showmanship employed by modern entertainers, a filmmaker investigates the dangers of audience manipulation and leader worship.

Starring Kurtwood Smith

(that 70's show, Robocop)

Beth Grant

(The Mindy Project, King of the Hill)

"Cleverly Plotted"

(Stranger Than Paradise, Black Dynamite)

\$16.95 SRP / UPC: 187830004320 /
SKU: BDVD0432 / 84 min color



PATRICK'S DAY

When a young man with mental health issues becomes intimate with a suicidal flight attendant, his obsessive mother enlists a dysfunctional cop to separate them.

"Powerful. Gut Wrenching. Beautiful"

—New York Examiner

"Fascinating"

—Irish Times

"Beautifully made... impressive... pitch perfect performances"

—The Desert Sun

\$16.95 SRP / UPC: 187830005556 /
SKU: BDVD0555 / 102 min color



HIT & STAY

A documentary about priests and nuns who protested the Vietnam War by breaking into draft boards, destroying draft records, and then waiting around to be arrested. Their actions inspired a movement, which shaped the anti-war movement and helped bring an end to the draft.

"Hit & Stay is a reminder of the power of the people, something that must never be forgotten"

—Film Threat

"Hit & Stay is a compelling documentary"

—Baltimore Sun

\$19.95 SRP / UPC: 187830004184 /
SKU: BDVD0418 / 84 min color



DESPITE THE GODS

Jennifer Lynch, daughter of cult film auteur David Lynch, was the youngest American woman to direct a feature film. Fifteen years later after an extended hiatus, a recovering addict and hard-working single mother, Lynch returns to the director's chair with an ambitious project that will test her skills and the entire crew's sanity on the set of a Bollywood/Hollywood action film.

"Highly entertaining portrait of Lynch as an artist and single mother living through the despairing lows and exhilarating highs of filming on the subcontinent."

—New York Examiner

\$19.95 SRP / UPC: 187830004283 /
SKU: BDVD0428 / 85 min color

TO ORDER: PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THESE VENDORS



BAKER AND TAYLOR
AVINFO@BAKER-TAYLOR.COM
800.775.2600 X2050



MVD ENTERTAINMENT
610.650.8200 X101
www.musicvideodistributors.com

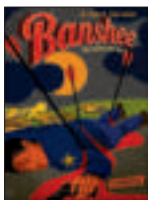


BRINKVISION
INFO@BRINKVISION.COM
520.628.9600

Banshee: Season 3

★★★

HBO, 4 discs, 600 min., TV-MA, DVD: \$26.95, Blu-ray: \$34.98



Produced for Cinemax, *Banshee* is a series that features elements for which the pay cable channel is best known—action, violence, sex, and pulp-oriented stories—cleverly mixed together to create a tightly-plotted crime series with vivid characters and novel twists. Lucas Hood (Antony Starr) is a career criminal turned sheriff—of a town controlled by an Amish gangster (Ulrich Thomsen)—who uses the cover of his job in the law to pull robberies with his gang: wild-child former girlfriend Carrie (Ivana Milicevic), who is now wife of the mayor; world-class hacker Job (Hoon Lee); and onetime boxer Sugar (Frankie Faison). This season, the team targets a military base being run by a corrupt commander who safeguards (and skims from) cash designated to be shipped overseas, with the heist presented from the POV of a series of surveillance cameras. Meanwhile, Lucas takes on a militant Native American militia leader (Geno Segers) who declares war on white society and lays siege to the police station. What makes Lucas a compelling character is that he is serious about protecting the town and he applies his criminal skills to policing, while also pulling real cops into his rogue missions. Presenting all 10 episodes from the 2015 third season, extras include episode commentaries, behind-the-scenes featurettes, webisodes, and deleted scenes. Co-created by novelist Jonathan Tropper (*This Is Where I Leave You*), this is recommended. (S. Axmaker)

The Carol Burnett Show—The Lost Episodes: Treasures from the Vault ★★★

Time Life, 6 discs, 1,039 min., not rated, DVD: \$59.95



Carol Burnett's multi-E Emmy-Award-winning variety show was eclipsed in the late 1970s by *Saturday Night Live*, which skewed younger and was more irreverently attuned to the times. Lorne Michaels reportedly laid down the law to the *SNL* writers that he didn't want sketches to be "too Carol Burnett." But over four decades later, Carol gets the last laugh, as these 15 episodes from the 1967-72 first five seasons of *The Carol Burnett Show*—not seen since their original broadcast due to legal hassles—arguably tend to hold up better than *SNL*'s earliest shows. As with *Your Show of Shows*, *The Carol Burnett Show* endures in large part because the sketches are primarily character-driven and not topical in ways that would date them. And the original ensemble—Carol Burnett, Harvey Korman, Vicki Lawrence, Lyle Waggoner—was lightning in

a bottle. This second set of "lost" episodes contains some of the series' signature early recurring sketches, such as "The Old Folks," "Carol and Sis," and the very first, the soap opera parody *As the Stomach Turns*. The unearthed treasures here are the musical production numbers—such as a tribute to the Warner Bros. studio—that were cut when the show went into syndication. Guest stars include a very game Jonathan Winters, Joan Rivers, Sonny & Cher, Nanette Fabray, Martha Raye, Mel Tormé, Art Carney, and Gwen Verdon. The copious extras include bonus sketches, behind-the-scenes featurettes, outtakes, and interviews with friends of the show (Pat Boone, Vikki Carr, Burt Reynolds) and Carol admirers (Tina Fey). Also included is an episode of the series that launched Burnett's TV career, *The Garry Moore Show*. Recommended. (D. Liebenson)

Childhood's End ★★½

Universal, 246 min., not rated, DVD: 3 discs, \$29.98; Blu-ray: 2 discs, \$34.98

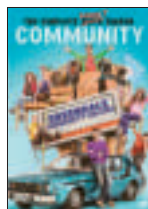


Adapted from the landmark 1953 sci-fi novel by Arthur C. Clarke, this 2015 Syfy-aired three-part miniseries is a largely faithful if also relatively unimaginative production, telling a tale of first contact that presents Earth's humanity as children of the universe awaiting evolution to join the rest of the advanced races of the galaxy. The story begins as an armada of alien ships park above Earth, but rather than invade they choose a human spokesman (Mike Vogel)—a simple farmer from the Midwest—to give to mankind gifts that end hunger, disease, and war. Of course, there are those who suspect the worst, but Clarke's tale is more provocative and complicated, serving up ideas in place of drama, although the screenplay struggles with bland characters. The standout performer here is Charles Dance as the alien Karellen, an unseen figure—with a booming voice—until he finally makes his physical entrance as a giant red being with wings and horns and a tail: the classic image of the Devil (and one of the most memorable scenes in this show). The novel has been so influential in the 60 years since publication that the ideas no longer seem fresh or surprising, but *Childhood's End* does capture the melancholy sense of loss that comes with humankind's evolution. Extras include deleted scenes. A strong optional purchase. (S. Axmaker)

Community: The Complete Sixth Season

★★½

Sony, 2 discs, 360 min., not rated, DVD: \$45.99



This cult sitcom about a misfit study group of eccentric students at a dys-

functional community college enjoyed a passionate but small audience on network TV and was cancelled after five seasons. Deciding to compete with Netflix, Amazon, and Hulu in the streaming video marketplace, Yahoo! revived the show for what would be its final season. With three members of the original cast gone and Jeff Winger (Joel McHale) now serving on the faculty, the study group has morphed into the "Save Greendale Committee," with two new members added for the season: Francesca "Frankie" Dart (Paget Brewster), a new administrator hired to get the college's finances in order, and Elroy Patashnik (Keith David), an inventor who saves Dean Pelton (Jim Rash) from a virtual reality addiction. The group is filled out with returning characters Britta (Gillian Jacobs), Abed (Danny Pudi), Annie (Alison Brie), and Ben (Ken Jeong). The series continues here to maintain the self-aware humor that made its reputation, with Abed providing commentary on the sitcom conventions it spoofs (cue montage sequence), and the episode "Grifting 101" modeling itself on the movie *The Sting*, right down to the ragtime piano version of the show's theme song. But while often clever, inventive, and funny, this final season never quite recaptures the chemistry of the series in its prime. Still, fans will be glad to have this one last visit with the characters. Presenting all 13 episodes from the 2015 sixth season, extras include a behind-the-scenes featurette, deleted scenes, trivia, and a gag reel. A strong optional purchase. (S. Axmaker)

Drunk History: Season 3

★★★

Paramount, 2 discs, 273 min., not rated, DVD: \$26.99



It's no wonder that Comedy Central has kept *Drunk History* going: nearly every episode manages to evoke at least a low running chuckle throughout. The politically incorrect premise, as created for the Funny or Die website in 2007, has a creative type—comedian, actor, writer, raconteur—relaxing at home and getting drunk on camera with host Derek Waters. Gradually, the guest recounts a favorite historical story with all of the loopy diversions and digressions that a shaker of martinis, box of wine, or quart of tequila will provide. The tales are actual vignettes from American history apparently chosen by the tellers who strictly hew to their impaired memories, whether conjured from an ancient elementary school lesson or an unreliable source. The drunken banter is then brought to life in recreated scenes that are cast with vaguely famous people who lip-sync the slurred and often profane dialogue. It is very silly, and often stupid, but almost always funny. Part of the formula's success comes from the technical brilliance of the actors' line readings and the staging of historical events that often contain



SPRING SAVINGS!

25% OFF ALL ORDERS

Use code **SPRING2016 at checkout**

Valid Through 5/1/16 - 6/30/16



Final season! Inspired by the turbulent life of the brash American entrepreneur who brought one of the finest department stores to London in the 1900s, this lush period drama is filled with romance, intrigue, and incredible costumes.

Item #: MST64610

\$34.99



These unique aerial tours, accompanied by informative narration and evocative musical scores, showcase the breathtaking landscapes and beloved monuments of Italy, Great Britain, and Ireland.

Item #: VSNS601 (Italy)

Item #: VSNS602 (Britain and Ireland)

\$29.99

Meet the world's most advanced humanoid robots as they leave the lab, battle real-world challenges, and endeavor to become part of our everyday lives.

Item #: NOVA6315

\$19.99



Dramatic. Adventurous. Scientific.

Keep your media collection current with DVDs from PBS Educational Media featuring the hottest costume dramas, the latest innovations in science and technology, and fascinating cultural experiences.

PBS programs are filled with rich content and breathtaking cinematography, entertaining viewers while also exploring the evolving perspectives of today's world that spur critical thinking. PBS programs will have patrons of every age and interest coming back for more.



PBS | Educational Media

**Find these and
other great DVDs at**

shopPBS.org/teachershop

some real educational value. The storytellers include Paget Brewster, Cameron Esposito, and Fortune Feimster, with guest appearances by Maya Rudolph, Will Ferrell, Jack Black, Michael Cera, and others. Topics covered in the 13 episodes from the 2015 third season compiled here include the Union Army Balloon Corps, Ponce de León, the 1972 World Chess Championship, the creation of the LAPD, and the times of Wernher Von Braun. Extras include "Unblurred" episodes, and deleted and extended scenes. Recommended. (T. Fry)

The Fall: Series 2 ★★½

Acorn, 2 discs, 403 min., not rated, DVD or Blu-ray: \$39.99

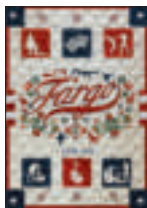
The 2014 second season of this BBC-aided police procedural finds Detective Superintendent Stella Gibson (Gillian Anderson) continuing her determined pursuit of a Belfast serial killer that she began in the initial series. *The Fall* isn't a whodunit: the identity of the culprit, icily impassive grief counselor Paul Spector (Jamie Dornan), was revealed early on, but remained unknown to Gibson, whose methodical efforts to unmask him ended in failure when he left the city at the close of the first narrative arc. Here, Spector returns to Belfast to clean up loose ends, which include abducting and torturing the one witness who could identify him. Written and directed by Allan Cubitt, *The Fall* plays on the odd psychological connection between hunter and hunted: both Gibson and Spector are cool, meticulous characters whose ultra-precise approaches mirror one another. But each exhibits weaknesses that turn their curiously elegant cat-and-mouse game into something messier, plagued by error and accident on each side. Although his skill at manipulation remains strong, Spector makes mistakes—especially in being involved with a young babysitter—that could eventually lead to his capture. *The Fall* is very deliberately paced and some of the plot tangents frankly strain credulity, but the relationship between the two deeply flawed leads creates a compellingly hypnotic mood. Extras include a behind-the-scenes featurette, deleted scenes, and a photo gallery. A strong optional purchase. (F. Swietek)



Fargo: Year Two ★★★★★

Fox, 533 min., not rated, DVD: 4 discs, \$39.98; Blu-ray: 3 discs, \$49.99

Airing on the FX channel, the TV series *Fargo* is not an adaptation of the Oscar-winning film by Joel and Ethan Coen—who serve as executive producers here—but it is certainly inspired by that contemporary cult classic. Each season serves up an original crime story that plays out in the winter landscape and affable culture of rural



Minnesota and neighboring locations. The second season, set in 1979 (a couple of decades before the first season), features Patrick Wilson as Lou Solverson, the younger version of the character played by Keith Carradine in the debut season. Solverson is a husband, father, and earnest state trooper who is called to the scene of a multiple murder at the local Waffle House and ends up in the middle of a mob war between North Dakota and Kansas City crime families. Meanwhile, a small-town butcher (Jesse Plemons) and his nervous wife (Kirsten Dunst) are targeted after she hits a member of the North Dakota crime family in a car accident on an icy road and the husband disposes of the body and covers up the accident to protect her. The series shares the dark offbeat humor, comic Midwestern accents and manners, stabs of gruesome violence, and unexpected narrative swerves of the original film—not to mention the intelligent writing and characters with unexpected dimensions—and it anchors the show in the family life of Solverson, whose wife (Cristin Milioti) is fighting cancer and father-in-law (Ted Danson) is the town sheriff. Amidst all the violence here is a core of decency and generosity, as family and neighbors look out for one another. Compiling all 10 episodes from 2015, extras include behind-the-scenes featurettes and interviews. Highly recommended. (S. Axmaker)

Frankenstein ★★½

BBC, 91 min., not rated, DVD: \$19.98

This 2007 BBC TV movie is less an adaptation of Mary Shelley's landmark horror novel than it is a 21st-century revision for our age of stem cell research and cutting-edge genetics. The doctor here is Victoria Frankenstein (Helen McCrory), a research scientist and divorced single mother, whose son is dying. Victoria is trying to grow healthy human organs independent of a human host, but when she introduces her son's DNA into the lab's stem cells in hopes of developing compatible life-saving organs, the experiment grows out of control and a creature escapes. This reworking quotes elements of the original film—an electrical storm lends the experiment an unexpected jolt, the innocent but physically terrifying monster accidentally kills a little girl—but also adds a conspiracy twist involving a biotech company that swoops in and takes over, capturing the creature in order to study it. Unlike in the source novel, this Dr. Frankenstein takes a maternal interest in her creation and she tries to protect it. James Purefoy costars as Frankenstein's ex-husband, while Lindsay Duncan is Professor Jane Pretorius, a twist on a character from *Bride of Frankenstein*. The production is more clever than compelling, and more interesting for its variations on



the original story than as a drama in its own right, but it is also handsomely produced and reasonably intelligent, which is better than most contemporary revisions of the classic tale. A strong optional purchase. (S. Axmaker)

Freaks and Geeks: The Complete Series

★★★½

Shout! Factory, 9 discs, 810 min., not rated, Blu-ray: \$119

No TV series better captured the complexities of adolescence or the subtleties and dynamics of the high school caste system than this sharp, funny, and poignant 1999-2000 TV series from creator Paul Feig and executive producer Judd Apatow. Linda Cardellini stars as Lindsay, the former class brain who drifts toward the "freaks," a group of stoners and underachievers led by rebel without a clue Daniel (James Franco, looking perpetually stoned). John Francis Daley defines the "geeks" as her Steve Martin-quoting, *Dungeons and Dragons*-playing little brother, who hangs with his friends, pines for a pretty cheerleader, and tries to avoid the mean-spirited pranks and hazing. Set in 1980 Michigan and executed with a dead-on sense of fashion, music, and pop-culture zeitgeist, the series used humor in an often sneaky way to explore the pain of teenage nightmares and social rites of passage. *Freaks and Geeks* is compassionate without losing itself in sentimentality, displaying a deft understanding of the crises that drive these kids to their often self-destructive behavior, but without letting them off the hook for their decisions. The show also launched the careers of Seth Rogen, Jason Segel, Martin Starr, and Busy Philipps. This collector's edition presents all 18 episodes in two separate versions: the original broadcast presentation in full-frame ratio, and a special widescreen TV version. Extras include episode commentaries, audition footage, deleted scenes, outtakes, bloopers, behind-the-scenes segments, a new interview with Feig and Apatow, and a booklet with essays. Highly recommended. (S. Axmaker)



From Dusk Till Dawn: Season Two ★★½

Entertainment One, 3 discs, 448 min., not rated, DVD: \$39.99, Blu-ray: \$49.99

The first season of filmmaker Robert Rodriguez's southwest vampire series, developed for his cable channel El Rey, presented a retelling of the original 1996 feature film (which was scripted by Quentin Tarantino) that offered more detail and backstory. The second season serves up an original storyline in which brothers Seth and Richie Gekko have gone their separate ways. Richie (Zane Holtz), once the wild,



dumb one, has become a vampire, and he teams up with vampire queen Santánico (Eiza González) to destroy the supernatural Mexican crime cartel sinking its fangs into Texas. Seth (D.J. Cotrona), meanwhile, joins Kate (Madison Davenport), former hostage turned survivor of the vampire slaughter, restarting his crime spree while she searches for her brother (Brandon Soo Hoo), who was bitten and turned during the massacre. It's a mix of gory southwestern horror and rural crime thriller spiced with black humor and Tex-Mex culture, ranging from Aztec designs to roadhouse rock. Also back from the first season are Wilmer Valderrama as a blood-sucking ganglord, Esai Morales as the undead high priest, and Jake Busey as a professor who gets bitten and joins forces with the vamps. Guest stars include Jeff Fahey, Gary Busey, Demi Lovato, and Rodriguez fave Danny Trejo as a supernatural hitman. Unfortunately, the series already feels a little long in the tooth, although horror fans will appreciate the copious bloodletting. Compiling all 10 episodes from the 2015 second season, extras include audio commentary, a Comic Con panel discussion, and behind-the-scenes featurettes. A strong optional purchase. (S. Axmayer)

Game of Thrones: The Complete Fifth Season

★★★★½
HBO, 559 min., TV-MA, DVD: 5 discs, \$59.99; Blu-ray: 4 discs, \$79.98



The fifth season of HBO's sprawling fantasy epic—adapted from *A Song of Ice and Fire*, the acclaimed series of novels by George R.R. Martin (who is also a writer and producer on the show)—features an ever-more complex web of alliances, betrayals, conspiracies, loyalties, and odysseys. Tyrion Lannister (Emmy winner Peter Dinklage) escapes from King's Landing and finds the Mother of Dragons, Daenerys Targaryen (Emilia Clarke), whose own rule is threatened by an underground rebellion. Meanwhile, Stannis (Stephen Dillane) sacrifices family in his effort to take the Iron Throne from the Lannister dynasty, and remaining members of the Starks struggle to survive the power shifts and political winds. And Cersei Lannister (Lena Headey) battles both the new queen (Natalie Dormer) and a priest (Jonathan Pryce) she tries to manipulate for her own purposes, which comes at a great cost. This season was especially controversial for the sexual assault and degradation of major female characters, spurring some viewers to call it quits. But it remains HBO's most popular series, a big-budget fantasy epic with giant dragons and zombie warriors, but one that plays like a medieval historical drama spread out across a huge fictional world (represented by shooting locations in Ireland, Iceland, Morocco, Malta, and Croatia). Presenting all 10 episodes from the 2015 fifth

season, extras include episode commentaries, behind-the-scenes featurettes, and deleted scenes (the Blu-ray release includes additional featurettes and supplements). Highly recommended. (S. Axmayer)

Girls: The Complete Fourth Season ★★½

HBO, 2 discs, 300 min., TV-MA, DVD: \$26.95, Blu-ray: \$34.98



In the fourth season of creator-star Lena Dunham's HBO comedy about twentysomething women in New York City, aspiring writer Hannah (Dunham) leaves the city for the prestigious Iowa Writer's Workshop, where housing is cheap and the nightlife is dead, while her three best friends back in the Big Apple get on with life without her just fine. Shoshanna (Zosia Mamet), fresh out of school, goes looking for a job; Marnie (Allison Williams) embarks on a musical career with a philandering singer-songwriter (Ebon Moss-Bachrach); and Jessa (Jemima Kirke) joins AA with Hannah's actor boyfriend (Adam Driver), but continues to stir situations that drag her friends into trouble along with her. Four seasons in and not only have the girls failed to grow up, they don't even act much like friends anymore. The caricatures of privileged, neurotic white girls confronting the disappointments of adult life are still often funny, but their constant self-sabotaging impulses and inability to break out of their self-centered bubbles and empathize with anyone else is starting to feel a little old. That goes for the men in their lives as well, who are (apart from Alex Karpov's Ray, campaigning for city council this season) just as messed up. Presenting all 10 episodes from the 2015 fourth season, extras include episode commentaries and behind-the-scenes featurettes (the Blu-ray release includes additional featurettes, deleted scenes, music videos, and a gag reel). A strong optional purchase. (S. Axmayer)

Humans ★★★

Acorn, 385 min., not rated, DVD: 3 discs, \$39.99; Blu-ray: 2 discs, \$39.99



This British science fiction series (a remake of a Swedish TV show) is set in a near future in which robots who look and act human serve as domestic help and menial workers. They are called synthetics, or synths for short, and despite their widespread use, many real people are uncomfortable with the synths' blank, unemotional presence. Laura (Katherine Parkinson), an overwhelmed mother of two teenagers, is wary after her husband Joe (Tom Goodman-Hill) brings home a housekeeper model named Anita (Gemma Chan), who behaves as if she is remembering a past life. William Hurt costars as one of the creators

of the synth program; now an old, ailing man, he treats his failing synth like a son. And Colin Morgan is a human trying to protect a group of synths who have become sentient. Like many sci-fi shows, *Humans* uses its premise as a metaphor to explore issues of identity, prejudice, family, class, and power. These synths form emotional attachments, have human feelings such as compassion and guilt (as well as disgust and anger), and feel solidarity with one another. And at the center of it lies the evolution of the relationship between Anita and her human family, which will be transformed once she regains her self-awareness. Aired on AMC stateside, this compilation of all eight episodes from the 2015 debut season features the original, uncut U.K. broadcast versions. Extras include behind-the-scenes footage and featurettes. Recommended. (S. Axmayer)

The Irish R.M.: The Complete Collection

★★★★½
Acorn, 6 discs, 960 min., not rated, DVD: \$59.99



Based on the books by novelists Somerville and Ross, *The Irish R.M.* stars Peter Bowles as Major Sinclair Yeates, "a fine gentleman from England," who resigns from the military to take a post in rural 1897 Ireland as the Resident Magistrate. "Things are different in Ireland," the increasingly confounded Yeates discovers, as he finds himself presiding over "improbable" cases. This gentle fish-out-of-water comedy recalls *Northern Exposure*, but with a *Masterpiece Theatre* pedigree. As the series unfolds, Yeates and his incredibly tolerant wife, Philippa (Doran Godwin), interact with (and are frequently at the mercy of) a gallery of eccentric characters, including his formidable housekeeper (Beryl Reid), his landlord Flurry (Bryan Murray), and Flurry's grandmother, Lady Knox (Faith Brook), who's no Dowager Countess, but is indomitable in her own right. As one character remarks, "It's all devilishly funny, no doubt," right up to the satisfying last episode, in which Yeates is offered a job transfer that might allow him to "get the better of them just this once." Compiling all 18 episodes from the 1983-85 three-season run, extras include a "making-of" featurette. Highly recommended. (D. Liebenow)

Jesus of Nazareth: The Complete Miniseries

★★★
Shout! Factory, 2 discs, 371 min., not rated, DVD: \$19.98, Blu-ray: \$24.98



According to Wikipedia, the technical term for biblical epics such as this widely beloved version of Christ's life is *Diatessaron* (or Gospel har-

mony). This four-part 1977 British-Italian co-production (which debuted on American TV in 1981) presents a cohesive, chronological narrative of the events presented in the New Testament. Shorter versions of the miniseries have been distributed, but this is one of the longer editions of Franco Zeffirelli's famed production (although not "complete" as advertised, and not 384 minutes as listed on the box), a finely crafted if also somewhat brooding drama that follows Jesus from birth to Resurrection with grace, emotion, and a de-emphasis of spectacle in favor of human theater. Robert Powell is the anti-ethnic blue-eyed savior whose mesmeric gaze invigorates gravitas among his A-list costars, who include Anne Bancroft, Ernest Borgnine, Claudia Cardinale, James Earl Jones, James Mason, Ian McShane, Laurence Olivier, Donald Pleasence, Christopher Plummer, Ralph Richardson, Rod Steiger, Peter Ustinov, Michael York, and many others. Although it is serious, engaging, and well-acted, there has been some controversy over liberties that Zeffirelli, Anthony Burgess, and Suso Cecchi d'Amico took with the script (the film selectively chooses events, and uses some dramatic license to condense timelines, while also introducing composite characters to streamline the action). Nevertheless, *Jesus of Nazareth* remains an absorbing, estimable saga, if perhaps a bit too staid today. Extras include bonus interviews. Recommended. (T. Fry)

The Last Kingdom

★★★

BBC, 2 discs, 466 min., not rated, DVD: \$24.98

Based on Bernard Cornwell's *Saxon Stories* historical novels, this British series retells the story of King Alfred the Great—the 9th-century Saxon King of Wessex—through the eyes of a fictional character: Uhtred of Bebbanburg (Alexander Dreymon). Born a Saxon but raised by a Danish warrior, Uhtred is a man caught between two worlds. Blamed for the massacre of his Danish family (who are actually murdered by another Danish clan) and cheated out of his rightful Saxon heritage by his uncle, he pledges his loyalty to Alfred (David Dawson) to defend Britain against the invading Danish forces and seals his pledge with a marriage to a Christian woman, Mildrith (Amy Wren). Serving up a mix of historical and fictional characters, *The Last Kingdom* tells the story of the birth of Britain, which is presented as an uneasy alliance between the Christian Alfred—who is sickly, but also learned and wise—and the pagan peoples who identified themselves as neither Dane nor Saxon but simply Britons. The series offers an interesting take on faith and religion, with complex characters who are able to look beyond the blinders of Scripture to see the



worth of individuals, including Alfred, who comes to respect his honest pagan subjects. A handsome period production that presents a realistic portrait of life in the Dark Ages, coupled with lavish battles that illustrate the tactics of medieval warfare, the busy narrative features betrayal, vengeance, romance, conspiracy, loyalty, and a nascent sense of patriotism in the British kingdom that Alfred is building. Compiling all eight episodes from the 2015 first season, this is recommended. (S. Axmaker)

The Lizzie Borden Chronicles ★★★

Sony, 2 discs, 337 min., not rated, DVD: \$26.99

This 2015 eight-part miniseries re-imagines how the 19th century's most notorious axe murderer might have led her life in the years after giving her parents those infamous 40 whacks. Christina Ricci reprises her role for Lifetime—following 2014's *Lizzie Borden Took an Ax*—playing crazy with a deliciously menacing gleam in her eye. *The Lizzie Borden Chronicles* follows Lizzie through wildly speculative misadventures as people continue to suffer savage demises after her acquittal. Along with her sister Emma (Clea DuVall), Lizzie takes no prisoners from the assorted band of creditors, cretins, and crazed characters who cause the siblings trouble or provide romantic intrigue in 1890s New England. Among them are a half brother (Andrew Howard), a greedy lawyer (John Heard), and a Pinkerton detective named Siringo (Cole Hauser) who is determined to bring the hatchet of justice down on the irredeemable butcheress. The storylines are full of sardonic glee, exploring both the period and the preposterous series of gruesome events presented as an alternate history to the inspiring incident—with nods and winks all around. Extras include deleted scenes and a gag reel. A guilty pleasure, this offbeat miniseries is recommended. (T. Fry)



Luther: 4 ★★★

BBC, 120 min., not rated, DVD: \$24.98

Idris Elba's DCI John Luther is one of the most mesmerizing detectives on TV thanks to his sharp understanding of the criminal mind and a dark streak of justice that sometimes pushes him to pass his own sentences on the guilty. As season four begins, Luther is in semi-retirement, hiding out from the world in a little cottage on a seaside cliff, but he's pulled back in after being told that the body of Alice Morgan (Ruth Wilson) has been found (he's convinced she faked her death) and a colleague is murdered by a cannibal serial killer. Teaming up with the dead man's partner (Rose Leslie), Luther is drawn into the

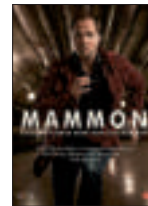


darkness as he follows the trail of mutilated victims. Meanwhile, he tangles with a mobster (Patrick Malahide) who puts a hit out on him, and is contacted by a self-proclaimed psychic with news from Alice. Although it's advertised as a season, this collection consists of only two episodes from 2015, which play more like a movie. It's a gruesome case and Elba anchors it all as Luther, a man who is still troubled and angry, and capable of enabling his new partner to cross the line with him. Extras include behind-the-scenes featurettes. Recommended. (S. Axmaker)

Mammon ★★★

MHz, 3 discs, 352 min., in Norwegian w/English subtitles, not rated, DVD: \$39.95

This six-part 2014 Norwegian miniseries is best described as a Nordic noir with an extremely convoluted plot, beginning with a 2008 prologue in which investigative newspaper reporter Peter Verås (Jon Øigarden) uncovers a case of banking misconduct that implicates his brother—who commits suicide as a result. Five years later, Peter's continuing research suggests that a much wider conspiracy exists, one that includes not only business leaders but also political figures. Peter's sister-in-law, teenage nephew, and estranged minister father—as well as some journalist colleagues—join Peter in becoming the targets of mysterious, nefarious forces as he inches closer to a truth that stretches back a quarter-century and involves a cruel scheme that threatens youngsters with violence. *Mammon* sports quite a few plot holes and strains credulity at numerous points—Verås's repeated ability to evade being caught by either the police or the thugs chasing him borders on the absurd, and red herrings are strewn everywhere (perhaps appropriate, given the Scandinavian setting). And the concluding revelations amount to little more than a case of run-of-the-mill financial skullduggery, albeit on a very large scale. Nonetheless, the series succeeds in building a brooding atmosphere, while the narrative twists and turns do hold the viewer's attention. Recommended. (F. Swietek)



Manhattan: Season Two ★★★

★★★

Lionsgate, 3 discs, 492 min., not rated, DVD: \$34.98

This second season of the historical series set at the Los Alamos, NM, military base where the atomic bomb was developed during World War II covers more ground than the first season, both historically and thematically. William Petersen joins the cast as the base colonel driving the scientific team—now under the direction of Charlie Isaacs (Ashley Zukerman)—who are faced with false information about the



German effort to develop their own bomb. Frank Winter (John Benjamin Hickey), who previously ran the “implosion group,” is sent to a secret prison for revealing project secrets to his wife (Olivia Williams), and his journey takes him through insidious mind games and back to the base, where he now counsels caution and restraint on the project. Other narrative strands here center on spies on the base and the effort to study the effects of radiation on the men and women working on the project (which the military doesn’t seem interested in knowing about). And there is melodrama surrounding J. Robert Oppenheimer (Daniel London, playing one of the only real-life historical characters in the show), who is distracted by a self-destructive affair. *Manhattan* is written with a seriousness and intelligence comparable to the best cable dramas, serving up a story engaged with the moral and ethical issues tied to the creation of the most powerful weapon on Earth, suggesting that the U.S. government manipulated and deceived scientists in order to speed up work on the project. Aired on WGN, *Manhattan* was unfortunately canceled after this second season. Compiling all 10 episodes from 2015, this is recommended. (S. Axmaker)

Mercy Street ★★½/2
PBS, 2 discs, 360 min., not rated, DVD: \$39.99, Blu-ray: \$44.99



Set in the Union-occupied city of Alexandria in the Confederate state of Virginia, this Civil War drama explores the conflicts between North and South through the uneasy interactions at a Union Army Hospital that lies in the center of Confederate sympathizers. Here, the occasional wounded Confederate soldier is treated, along with the Union men, free black citizens, and slaves who are still not emancipated. At the center of the sprawling cast of characters are Mary Phinney (Mary Elizabeth Winstead), a Boston widow and committed abolitionist appointed to be the hospital’s head nurse, and Emma Green (Hannah James), a Southern belle in the town’s leading family who volunteers to help the Confederate soldiers neglected by the Union staff. Josh Radnor is the forward-looking civilian doctor who clashes with the veteran military surgeon, while Gary Cole plays a loyal Southern patriarch attempting to balance his Confederate loyalties with keeping the peace under military occupation. *Mercy Street* is an historical American medical drama that takes its cues from British period pieces, with the first few episodes setting up the conflicts—both political and personal—and establishing the contradictions among the characters, after which the series really comes alive as personal stories begin to drive the drama. Presenting all six episodes from 2016, extras include behind-the-scenes

featurettes and deleted scenes. Highly recommended. (S. Axmaker)

Mystery Science Theater 3000: Volume XXXV

★★★½/2

Shout! Factory, 4 discs, 480 min., not rated, DVD: \$59.98

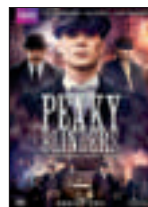


This latest compilation from the long-running comedy series harkens back to a nice perk of some previous DVD releases in the franchise: for the re-titled *Being From Another Planet*, a shambling cheapie about a misunderstood alien mummy stalking a party-hearty college campus, bad-cinema purists have a choice between watching the *MST3K* spoof version with snarky commentary delivered by a man and his robot companions imprisoned on a space station, or the original 1982 version, *Time Walker*. For the remaining three titles, however, lovers of cheesy B-movies are stuck with the laughable riffs—which is fine, since that’s the whole point of the show. *Deathstalker and the Warriors from Hell* (aka *Deathstalker III*, if anyone cares) is a shot-in-Mexico 1988 sword-and-sorcery potboiler; *12 to the Moon* is a low-budget 1960 movie about an international Earth space flight running afoul of (unseen) moon people (meanwhile, Mike Nelson and the robots cope with a visit from a singing, dancing, glamour girl derived from *Design for Dreaming*, a notorious 1956 auto-industry promo film). Finally, Roger Corman’s infamous 1958 flick *Teenage Caveman* is mocked by series creator Joel Hodgson and the ‘bots. Extras include behind-the-scenes featurettes for all four films (and each movie is packaged separately, so libraries have the option of lending out individual titles). Highly recommended. (C. Cassady)

Peaky Blinders: Series Two

★★★

BBC, 2 discs, 360 min., not rated, DVD: \$29.98, Blu-ray: \$34.98



The second season of this British gangster drama, set in the North England industrial city of Birmingham after World War I, jumps ahead a couple of years. The Shelby crime family and their gang the Peaky Blinders (so named for their practice of keeping a razor in the brim of their caps) are trying to expand their power and influence. To that end, Thomas (Cillian Murphy), a war veteran who applies the lessons he learned in battle to street warfare, picks sides in a clash between the London-based Italian mob (led by Noah Taylor) and the Jewish gang (led by Oscar nominee Tom Hardy). Meanwhile, Inspector Chester Campbell (Sam Neill), who has a personal vendetta and is looking for payback against Thomas, is back to blackmail

the latter into becoming an assassin for the government. Created and written by Steven Knight, the show boasts rich characters and features a vivid recreation of the era, while well-plotted scripts deliver some terrific gang war conflicts and robberies. It also has the brutal edge of an American cable drama (it’s been called Britain’s answer to *Boardwalk Empire*), which may bother fans of more genteel British dramas but will appeal to aficionados of American crime shows. Interestingly, the soundtrack is filled with hard-edged rock songs from the White Stripes, Nick Cave, and others (including a raw yet tender version of “Danny Boy” by Johnny Cash), which is unusually effective in setting the tone of the show. Because this series is a Netflix exclusive, many fans of British imports may not have access to the series outside of this home video release. Compiling all six episodes from the 2014 second season, this is recommended. (S. Axmaker)

Primeval Television

★★★

Festival Films, 2 discs, 266 min., not rated, DVD: \$24.95



If one can speak of the ages of TV, this compilation comes from the time when the medium was just taking baby steps. It begins with a government short called *Tomorrow Television* (1945) that promotes careers in TV production to GIs returning from the war, followed by programs dating from 1948 to 1954 that were chosen to illustrate various genres. Situation comedy is represented with the very first episode of *The Adventures of Ozzie & Harriet* (1952) and an episode of *The Beulah Show* (1950), in which Ethel Waters plays a housekeeper and Dooley Wilson costars as her boyfriend, with Butterfly McQueen (*Gone With the Wind*) in a supporting role. Dramas include episodes of *Playhouse 15* (1952) with Jack Klugman, *Martin Kane, Private Eye* (1952) with Lloyd Nolan, *Public Prosecutor* (1947), and a sci-fi spy show called *Top Secret* (1954). An episode of *The Ed Wynn Show* (1949) with Buster Keaton as guest star serves as a solid example of variety programming, while *Learn to Draw* (1950) showcases educational TV. Also featured are animated programs (old Felix the Cat shorts revived for the tube, the 1948 pilot *Comic Strips of Television* from Jay Ward) and live-action kids’ shows such as *Junior Aces* (19502) and a pre-Bozo circus show called *The Magic Clown* (1949), which comes across like an infomercial for its candy-company sponsor. Rounding out the collection are newsreels and celebrity-centered pieces with Art Linkletter and Dinah Shore. Not exactly lost treasures, *Primeval Television* nevertheless contains intriguing artifacts that will be of interest to students of television’s earliest years. Recommended. (F. Swietek)

Saints & Strangers

★★★

Sony, 192 min., not rated,
DVD: \$26.99

For a modestly budgeted historical drama, this 2015 National Geographic Channel-aired two-part miniseries offering a somewhat revisionist retelling of the *Mayflower* saga scores decent marks for accuracy, mood, and period detail, featuring a fine cast that brings nuance to a story that most of us think we know (but probably don't). The 100-plus souls who braved a frightful journey to the New World in 1620 dwindle down from disease and danger, but persevere in spirit and resolution as they build their colony of Plymouth. The primary adventurers are god-fearing William Bradford (Vincent Kartheiser) and Stephen Hopkins (Ray Stevenson), the latter a doubtful explorer leaving England under a fog of humiliation. The pair lead an assortment of interesting background characters who struggle mightily to forge a life on the craggy shores of New England (the vivid locations were actually shot in South Africa). Of equal interest are the aboriginal people they find—or who find them—once they are ashore. Hailing from various tribes and speaking authentic (subtitled) languages, these sturdy, wily folk are led by Pokanoket honcho Massasoit (Raoul Trujillo) and Patuxet warrior Squanto (Kalani Queypo), who can speak to the Europeans in their own tongue. The conflicting agendas, rampant suspicions, and shifting alliances negotiated by the multiple groups are plausibly presented here in a well-researched script. Extras include deleted scenes. Recommended. (T. Fry)



can be seen as a buddy movie bromance for the *Soldier of Fortune* set, focusing on a friendship forged under fire. But this final season is also the best, thanks to an engaging storyline filled with twists. British TV veteran Robson Green returns as the tough and loyal commander of the team, which also features Michelle Lukes and Milauna Jackson. Presenting all 10 episodes from the 2015 fourth and last season, extras include behind-the-scenes featurettes. Recommended. (S. Axmaker)

Togetherness: The Complete First Season

★★★

HBO, 2 discs, 240 min., TV-MA, DVD: \$26.95, Blu-ray: \$34.98

Touchy-feely title aside, the HBO series *Togetherness*—created by filmmaker siblings Jay and Mark Duplass, with longtime Duplass acting company regular Steve Zissis—is a solid comedy about the frustrations of love and the difficulty of sustaining relationships in the modern world. Mark Duplass and Melanie Lynskey play Brett and Michelle, a married couple with two children, whose home is suddenly overrun when Brett's best friend, Alex (Zissis), an unemployed actor, and Michelle's older sister, Tina (Amanda Peet), who has impulsively moved to Los Angeles from Texas after a bad breakup, arrive at the same time. While Brett and Michelle struggle with marriage malaise—Brett, a sound engineer for indie films, hates his job and finds family life a chore, while Michelle is bored as a stay-at-home mom who feels that life has passed her by—Tina appoints herself as a makeover guru to sad sack Alex and he falls hard for the energetic, sexy, but also manipulative gal. In other shows, the married couple's love and commitment would help them weather their disappointments, and the middle-aged male schlub would win over the hot chick, but *Togetherness* is smarter and more realistic than that, exploring personal disappointment, professional frustrations, uneasy compromises, unhappiness, and bad decisions made out of desperation, all with a sharp sense of humor. Compiling all eight episodes from the 2015 first season, extras include behind-the-scenes featurettes, cast interviews, and deleted scenes. Recommended. (S. Axmaker)



armed robbery. Redman is his wife, Jackie, who is not entirely pleased to have Jimmy back in her life—and neither is their son (Tom Cullen). Despite the domestic chill, Jimmy attempts to go clean with a low-paying warehouse job, but things become complicated when he discovers that his beloved granddaughter (Montanna Thompson) is a drug user and a runaway who is living with her dealer. So, Jimmy faces a new challenge: in rescuing his granddaughter, will he run the risk of falling back into the behavior that put him in prison? *The Trials of Jimmy Rose* is, in many ways, a fairly conventional TV crime drama, but Winstone and Redman have such a powerful presence that they are able to make their characters compelling in this solid, old-fashioned star vehicle. Recommended. (P. Hall)

Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt: Season One

★★★

Universal, 2 discs, 324 min., not rated, DVD: \$22.98

Ellie Kemper, who played the sunny but clueless receptionist Erin in *The Office*, stars in this new sitcom as a woman who spent 15 years as the prisoner of a doomsday cult leader in an underground bunker and now wants to experience everything she missed. Kimmy moves to New York City, becomes the roommate of a struggling entertainer (Tituss Burgess) in a basement apartment managed by a dizzy landlady (Carol Kane), and lands a job as the personal assistant to the rich and clueless Jacqueline (Jane Krakowski), the aging trophy wife of a philandering millionaire. Created by Robert Carlock and Tina Fey, the series was originally developed for network TV but ended up at Netflix. It features a familiar sense of satirical humor and rapid-fire absurdity, but the farcical comedy is also grounded in resilience and optimism, and Kemper brings an infectious sense of excitement to Kimmy, a girlish young woman thrilled at the possibilities that life has to offer. Guest stars include Fey, Martin Short, Nick Kroll, Amy Sedaris, and Jon Hamm as the deranged doomsday cult preacher. Compiling all 13 episodes from the 2015 debut season, this is recommended. (S. Axmaker)



Strike Back: Cinemax Season Four

★★★
HBO, 3 discs, 480 min, TV-MA, DVD: \$26.95

The final season of Cinemax's first original drama—a British co-production with an international scope centered on a covert military anti-terrorism group called Section 20—finds the team up against a North Korean plot masterminded by an icy, cunning agent (played by martial arts star Michelle Yeoh) and her son (Will Yun Lee). The story begins in Thailand, crosses borders into North Korea, and then chases the terrorists all over Europe to stop them from detonating a nuclear device, along the way serving up hard-edged, violent action and drama built on the partnership of the group's most badass members: British military veteran Michael Stonebridge (Philip Winchester) and American Damien Scott (Sullivan Stapleton), a former Delta Force commando. This season adds a complication when the two men go rogue to rescue Scott's son from the terrorists. In a way, *Strike Back*



The Trials of Jimmy Rose

★★★

Acorn, 143 min., not rated,
DVD: \$34.99

Sixteen years after creating onscreen magic in *Sexy Beast*, two of Britain's finest actors, Ray Winstone and Amanda Redman, are reunited in this entertaining three-part 2015 British crime drama. Winstone plays Jimmy, a career criminal who rejoins society after serving a dozen years for



Video Librarian Online

Visit Video Librarian Online (www.videolibrarian.com) for more reviews during May and June, including: *The Americans: The Complete Third Season*, *The Bible Stories: In the Beginning*, *Death Valley Days: The Complete First Season*, *The Heavy Water War*, *A Place to Call Home: Season 3*, *Prisoners' Wives: Complete Collection*, and much more!

Ordering information for the titles reviewed in this section can be found in the "Distributor Addresses" listings at the back of the magazine.

★★★★ = Excellent

★★★ = Good

★★ = Fair

★ = Poor

PPR = Public Performance Rights

DRA = Digital Rights Available

Aud = Audience

K = Preschool-Kindergarten

E = Elementary (grades 1-3)

I = Intermediate (grades 4-6)

J = Jr. High (grades 7-8)

H = High School (grades 9-12)

C = Colleges & Universities

P = Public Libraries

CHILDREN'S

Barbie: Spy Squad ★★

(2016) 76 min. DVD: \$16.98, Blu-ray/DVD Combo: \$22.98. Universal Studios Home Entertainment (avail. from most distributors). SDH captioned.

The most recent addition to the Barbie franchise, this sort of real-world-based (as opposed to a fantasy land with talking animals) action-packed movie features the Golden One and pals Teresa and Renee struggling with confidence issues before their gymnastics team's championship trials. Renee's quirky Auntie Zoe sees something special after observing the trio's years of teamwork, and she lures the girls to a secret high-tech lair nestled near the Hollywood sign, where the suave "Ms. Z" reveals her true identity as a higher-up for the I3 (International Intelligence and Innovation) agency, which needs the girls' help in capturing a nimble female cat burglar who only requires three remaining gemstones to create a dangerous weapon. *Spy Squad* features lengthy training sequences in which the teens test out cool outfits and gadgets, but after botching break-ins at a billionaire's penthouse and a national museum gala, will Barbie and Co. be up to the task of stopping the villain? Also featuring a music video and outtakes, this characteristically well-produced "grrrl-power" program is sure to be popular. Recommended. Aud: P. (J. Williams-Wood)

Greenhorn: A Story of Friendship in the Aftermath of the Holocaust ★★★★★

(2015) 25 min. DVD: \$69.95. DRA. TMW Media Group. PPR.

Adapted from the titular 2012 YA novel by Anna Olszanger (who serves here as producer), filmmaker Tom Whitus's *Greenhorn* is based on the true story of 11-year-old Daniel (Giorgio Poma), who arrives at a Brooklyn yeshiva (a Jewish religious school) as an orphan of the Holocaust, carrying a mysterious box he will not let out of his sight. Daniel is befriended by stuttering school student Aaron (Leo Hojnowski), and the two form a friendship based on mutual respect. When the worst happens and the box is opened by school bullies—with the permission of the teacher—lives are changed. Set in 1946, a time when few were yet fully aware of what happened in concentration camps in Nazi Germany, *Greenhorn* is a powerfully moving film about family, friendship, faith, and renewal. Extras include a downloadable teacher's guide with learning objectives, discussion topics, research, and thematic questions. Highly recommended. **Editor's Choice.** Aud: E, I, P. [Note: this is also available on home video for \$19.95 from www.amazon.com.] (C. Block)

I Can Be President: A Kid's Eye View ★★★★★

(2011) 22 min. DVD: \$12.95. First Run Features (avail. from most distributors).

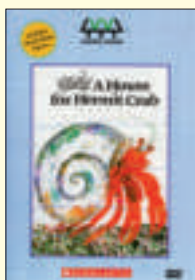
Produced by HBO Family, and featuring the work of celebrated animator Michael Sporn (1946-2014), this 2011 short offers a child's perspective on the job of Commander in Chief. Filmmaker Diane Kolyer's *I Can Be President* combines brief cartoon sequences with scenes of real-life kids (solo or in pairs) who share their ideas about what makes a good president (such as the suggestion to outlaw spinach), noting that they too could one day be up for the job ("Obama was once

a kid. And George Washington was. And now they're presidents!"). In one segment, the participants recite the names of and facts about the presidents, including the appearance of a boy with a form of cerebral palsy who admires FDR ("I really give him a thumbs up!"). Kids being often less than politic, there are also some unflattering remarks, such as mocking an obese William Howard Taft. Also including an animated film gallery and a documentary-length tribute to Sporn, this timely program is sure to spur classroom discussion. Recommended. Aud: E, P. (J. Williams-Wood)

The Land Before Time: Journey of the Brave ★★

(2016) 82 min. DVD: \$16.98. Universal Studios Home Entertainment (avail. from most distributors on May 10). SDH captioned.

The 270th...oops, the 14th addition to this still-kicking animated franchise based on the 1988 classic Don Bluth/Steven Spielberg/George Lucas animated dinosaur classic continues the escapades of various dinosaur pals. Apatosaurus protagonist Littlefoot stays with his grandparents in the Great Valley but looks forward to his migration leader father Bron's annual visit home during the "season of new growth." However, this year Bron doesn't return with the herd because he was trapped trying to save others following a volcanic eruption. Somehow, Littlefoot senses that his father needs his assistance, and he is joined by longtime pals—bossy Cera, hyper Ducky, anxious Petrie, and sloth-like Spike—who navigate obstacles ranging from vicious featherhead sharptooth villains to in-fighting about the best way to proceed. Featuring a few unmemorable songs (the best is country star Reba McEntire's in-character turn as a friendly homespun pteranodon singing the jaunty "Look for the Light")—also available as bonus sing-alongs—this all-new movie (that nevertheless feels completely recycled) is an optional purchase. Aud: P. (J. Williams-Wood)



A House for Hermit Crab ★★★★★1/2

(2015) 9 min. DVD: \$59.95 (study guide included). Weston Woods Studios. PPR. Closed captioned. ISBN: 978-0-545-87498-4.

Narrated by Will Damron, this animated adaptation of acclaimed children's author Eric Carle's 1987 picture book is peppered with Carle's customary colorful speckle patterning. In January, a too-snug hermit crab finds that it's "time to move," and after entertaining various "what if's" tied to a fear of being out in the open on the sea floor, has by February found a good-fitting strong new shell house. But the crab thinks the new homestead looks a little plain, and over the next few months it coaxes various other sea creatures—including a sea anemone, starfish, snail, and lantern fish—to help spruce up the place. After building a protective wall of sturdy pebbles during October, by November the shell is starting to feel a bit too small.... A sweetly simplistic tale about sharing, cooperation, and creativity ("Oh, there are so many possibilities! I can't wait to get started!"), bonus features include a read-along option and a factual segment on the creatures featured. Highly recommended. Aud: K, E, P. (J. Williams-Wood)

LEGO Star Wars: Droid Tales ★★½

(2016) 115 min. DVD: \$19.99. Walt Disney Studios Home Entertainment (avail. from most distributors). SDH captioned.

Viewers who prefer the *Family Guy* parodies of Lucasfilm's space-epic series over another helping of *Ewoks* and *Droids* or *Clone Wars* cartoons can take heart: this CGI five-part LEGO takeoff on the saga is more of a savvy burlesque, not above mocking the dramatic deficits and plot holes in George Lucas's canon (Jar Jar Binks is violently ejected from the plot every time he shows up). The introduction takes place immediately after the victory in *Return of the Jedi*. As a coda to the exploding of the second Death Star, robot C-3PO (voiced by Anthony Daniels, one of the only—along with Billy Dee Williams—carryover thespians from the films) has his missing memory restored by R2-D2, after which he recaps *Star Wars* movies and TV series (but not the holiday special) for various characters from the first three movies. Meanwhile, "Artoo" is kidnapped, and C-3PO continues his narrative while on the chase. *Droid Tales* is fun stuff that carries some of the same character-spoofing bonhomie found in the theatrical hit *The LEGO Movie*. Recommend. Aud: P. (C. Cassidy)

The Moon Book ★★

(2015) 19 min. DVD: \$38.99. Dreamscape Media. PPR. Closed captioned. ISBN: 978-1-68262-127-1.

Author and illustrator Gail Gibbons shares a wealth of information in this iconographic-animated adaptation of her 1997 nonfiction book, narrated by Chris Lutkin. Created in a cartoonish style, *The Moon Book* looks at Earth's moon, offering facts about the satellite's physical make-up, relation to our planet and sun, and history. A lengthy section covers—with matching nighttime background depictions—the different phases of the moon, and the short also includes key dates and milestones, ranging from Mesopotamian records of a lunar eclipse to the famous Apollo 11 landing, as well as info on legends and stories (cultural traditions, the moon's effects on werewolves, the nursery rhyme "Hey Diddle Diddle"). Also featuring a read-along option with additional segments (including a solar eclipse project), this comprehensive overview is recommended. Aud: E, P. (J. Williams-Wood)

My Name Is Not Isabella ★★

(2015) 13 min. DVD: \$38.99. Dreamscape Media. PPR. Closed captioned. ISBN: 978-1-68141-648-9.

This iconographic-animated short is based on the 2010 titular entry in author Jennifer Fosberry and illustrator Mike Litwin's series featuring elementary-school-aged Isabella—who doesn't want to be called Isabella. Throughout the day as her mother wakes her up, gets her breakfast



Terrific ★★★

(2014) 7 min. DVD: \$38.99. Dreamscape Media. PPR. Closed captioned. ISBN: 978-1-63379-355-2.

Author and illustrator Jon Agee's 2005 picture book is nicely adapted in this iconographic-animated version featuring narration by Kirby Heyborne. Grumpy old man Eugene—who sarcastically mutters about things being "terrific," when in fact they are quite the opposite—wins a trip to Bermuda, but is the only one not rescued after the cruise ship sinks in a storm. Washed up on a small island populated by a parrot with a hurt wing, Eugene hates the sole food (pomegranates) and is frustrated trying to follow the super-smart parrot's detailed plans for building a boat (from centerboard to rudder and mast). Eventually, the sailboat is complete and the unlikely duo are rescued by fishermen...who have a history with the parrot. Bonus features include a read-along option and a companion music video from the Promise Makers. A fun tale presented with simple lines and colors, this is recommended. Aud: K, E, P. (J. Williams-Wood)

and onto the bus, offers her an afterschool snack before homework, etc., little Isabella has a smarmy answer for everything. Get ready for school? "My name is not Isabella. My name is Sally Ride," she says, birdwalking and imagining herself in an action role. The random name-dropping of strong female heroes here, including Annie Oakley, Rosa Parks, and Marie Curie, feels contrived and the dialogue is unnatural ("Who will help me set out the dishes for our fine meal?"), ultimately leading to a sentimental ending. Also featuring a read-along option and a bonus segment offering facts about the real-life women mentioned in the story, this is an optional purchase. Aud: K, E, P. (J. Williams-Wood)

Shimmer and Shine ★★

(2016) 156 min. DVD: \$14.98. Paramount Home Entertainment (avail. from most distributors). Closed captioned.

Genie sisters Shimmer and Shine use their powers to help human friend Leah with various problems in this compilation from the recent Nickelodeon-aired debut season of the animated series. The basic set-up: Leah and her neighborhood pal Zac are faced with some sort of issue, Leah summons the genies (communicating from her necklace to their bracelets), the girls somehow mess up Leah's three wishes while trying to avoid being seen by the oblivious Zac, and the trio ends up with a makeshift plan for resolution (add splashes of vibrant color—especially in the genies' magical realm—along with hyper Bollywood-ish music, and cute catchphrases). In "Genie Treehouse," Leah's wish for a fun tree fort is blown out of proportion and her actual home is turned into a tree. A school bake sale cupcake marathon leads to a cow in the kitchen in "The Sweetest Thing," while "Dino Might" finds the search for Zac's missing toy supplanted by a real drool-y dinosaur. Also including "Ahoy, Genies!," "Lights! Camera! Genies!," "What a Pig

Mess," and "Abraca-Genie," this lightweight cartoon fare is optional, at best. Aud: P. (J. Williams-Wood)

The Tiny Seed ★★★

(2015) 11 min. DVD: \$59.95 (study guide included). Weston Woods Studios. PPR. Closed captioned. ISBN: 978-0-545-86702-3.

Narrated by Jennifer Jiles, this animated adaptation of prolific children's author Eric Carle's 1970 picture book features autumn winds blowing seeds against mosaic-style speckled accents of nature. While other seeds burn in the sun or don't thrive in icy mountain conditions, one tiny seed—which may not be as large or as fast as some—presses on. Flying over the ocean, crossing a dry desert, and escaping hungry animals and playful children who pick nearby flowers as the seasons pass (and seeds grow roots, stems, and leaves), the tiny seed perseveres to become a special flower. Animated by Soup2Nuts, with music by Ernest Troost, this loose introduction to the plant life-cycle (which also celebrates the dictum to keep on keepin' on) includes a bonus read-along option. Recommended. Aud: K, E, P. (J. Williams-Wood)

PSYCHOLOGY & SELF-HELP

Like the Others ★★★

(2015) 95 min. DVD: \$300. DRA. Film Platform (avail. from www.filmplatform.net). PPR.

Constantin Wulff's fly-on-the-wall documentary was shot over a year-plus at a child and adolescent psychiatric facility in Tulln, a town outside Vienna. The focus is on the interaction between counselors and patients, as staff members question the young people—for the most part gently but at times more firmly—about their feelings of alienation, as well as any family problems that might be a factor in their inability to cope. But a good deal of the film is also devoted to staff

Mack & Moxie



A Parents' Choice Recommended Award Winner

Mack & Moxie teaches children life-long lessons of charity and compassion while celebrating the joy of helping others.

This series has joined hands with America's leading non-profit organizations to introduce children to important causes such as Save the Children, American Red Cross, Feeding America, and World Wildlife Fund. Each episode in the series features a different guest celebrity, including Josh Duhamel (Transformers, All My Children), Eva LaRue (CSI Miami, All My Children) and Kal Penn (House M.D., How I Met Your Mother).

Mack and Moxie: The Great Helpee Heroes

UPC: 84350-100647-4 • \$9.99

Prebook: 4/26/16 • Street: 5/24/16

Available at the following wholesalers:
Ingram Entertainment, Alliance Entertainment,
Baker & Taylor, Midwest Tape, and WaxWorks

*Final cover art may differ from image shown.

New May & June Releases!



*Dino Dan:
Dino Babies*

SRP: \$9.99
UPC: 84350-100644-3
Prebook: 4/5/16
Street: 5/3/16



*Sid the Science Kid:
Invent & Investigate*

SRP: \$14.99
UPC: 84350-100687-0
Prebook: 4/19/16
Street: 5/17/16



*Cat in the Hat:
Oh Say, What's the
Weather Today?*

SRP: \$9.99
UPC: 84350-100649-8
Prebook: 5/17/16
Street: 6/14/16



*R/W:
20 Phonics Adventures*

SRP: \$9.99
UPC: 84350-100688-7
Prebook: 5/31/16
Street: 6/28/16

*Final cover art may differ from image shown.

Dino Dan™ & © Dinosaur Ship Enterprises. Sid the Science Kid™ & © 2016 The Jetstream Company. All rights reserved. The Cat in the Hat™ 1946-2020. © 2016 - Quinsy Media Innovation - © 2016.

www.NCircleEntertainment.com

discussions, where the counselors argue—at times very excitedly—about possible courses of treatment and the pressures caused by budgetary shortfalls, which can prevent the admission of children who are thought to be in need of more than outpatient treatment. Occasional segments also find patients' parents included in the sessions. *Like the Others* is a portrait of professionals who are dedicated even in the face of administrative limitations, and the stories of some of the youngsters—including a sad-faced girl, and a young boy given to frantic outbursts—are quietly wrenching. The documentary ultimately demonstrates both the care with which troubled children must be treated in such facilities, and the difficulty of providing essential services when resources are strained. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (F. Swietek)

The Wind at My Door ★★★

(2013) 75 min. In French w/English subtitles. DVD: \$215. DRA. National Film Board of Canada. PPR.

Quebec actor-filmmaker Pierre Goupil might not be a household name, but his work includes such well-regarded Canadian movies as *Robert N.* and *Celui qui voit les heures*. Goupil and Rénald Bellemare's *The Wind at My Door* is a sad documentary about Goupil's severe struggles with bipolar disorder at the 1980s peak of his career, a condition that still affects him today. Now in his 60s, Goupil is seen at the beginning of this film being evicted from his longtime home (which is in visible disrepair and full of garbage). Goupil moves to an apartment and, over time, establishes it as a viable base, while also meeting with people from his past, including old collaborators, artists, and his mother. Goupil talks a lot about the reality-bending effects of being bipolar, including a bizarre episode when he almost completely disrobed outdoors and believed himself to be at one with ants. But Goupil also feels a healthy ambivalence about constantly finding himself subject to legal and medical authorities, displaying a general cynicism about a self-serving Orwellian system that controls everything and everybody. Interestingly, the documentary—filmed in 2010—finds resonance with that view on the streets of Montreal as the Occupy movement takes over a section of the city core. An interesting portrait of a metaphorically square peg artist struggling to fit into a societal round hole, this is recommended. Aud: C, P. (T. Keogh)

RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY

A Man Named Martin, Part 1: The Man ★★★

(2016) 80 min. DVD: \$19.99. Vision Video.

This opening volume in a multi-part biography of Martin Luther (1483-1546) draws

on comments from scholars and authors to present a compelling story of Luther's journey as a religious reformist. One of the more interesting details covered here concerns Luther's many years of enduring various forms of physical misery in order to perform penance for perceived spiritual weaknesses. Penance was a cornerstone of Catholic doctrine in the 15th and 16th centuries, and Luther would go so far as to become an Augustinian monk and ordained priest in order to compensate for his alleged sins. But his worldly experiences as a priest, increasing doubt about penance as a sacrament, and mounting disillusionment with papal corruption—especially the Vatican's selling of dispensations to avoid punishments in Purgatory—turned him into a reformer. His infamous "Ninety-Five Theses" of 1517 (which, contrary to popular belief, were probably not nailed to a church door) helped usher in the Protestant Reformation, establishing Luther as a hero in his native Germany and the scourge of Rome. Luther would be excommunicated and declared a heretic, but his rebellious ideas would make him one of the most influential thinkers in the history of Christianity. Recommended. Aud: H, C, P. (T. Keogh)

Passion for Justice: The Life of John Perkins ★★★1/2

(2016) 84 min. DVD: \$14.99. Vision Video.

This powerful documentary serves up a first-person account of the lives and work of John and Vera Mae Perkins, prominent leaders in the Civil Rights movement during the 1960s, particularly in Mendenhall, MS. A native of Mississippi, John recalls his sad childhood, beginning with the death of his mother during childbirth and the very brief time that he spent with his father. The latter abandoned John and left him with a hunger for love that drew the boy to Christianity. While in the military, John met Vera Mae and arranged for their marriage and move

to California. Four children later, John—now a preacher—felt a calling to go back to Mendenhall and apply biblical ideals to deep-rooted problems of racial segregation and voter suppression. Vera Mae, who had prayed for strength to support John's sense of mission during dangerous times, remembers the hard work and daily brutality that African Americans faced while participating in the movement. Both she and John describe the horrifying night that John was tortured by police while in jail, leaving him with a hole in his head. *Passion for Justice* doesn't dwell on such nightmarish stories, instead presenting the Perkinses and others of their generation as teachers, eyewitnesses to history who can help others better understand an America from a half-century ago. Highly recommended. Aud: P. (T. Keogh)

Secrets of Noah's Ark ★★★

(2014) 60 min. DVD: \$24.99 (\$54.99 w/PPR). PBS Video. SDH captioned. ISBN: 978-1-62789-505-7.

Myths of cataclysmic floods are common to many ancient civilizations. The book of Genesis describes a flood wrought by God to punish man for his sins, sparing only Noah and his family, along with two of every animal species. After the flood subsided, God joined in a pact with man, pledging never to use floodwaters again to wipe out the human race. Directed by Nic Young, this PBS-aided NOVA documentary looks at our current knowledge about the Ark story, while also noting its central importance to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In ancient times, floods were common in Mesopotamia—part of nature's annual cycle—serving as sources of fertility and prosperity, as well as destruction. Was Noah's flood one great event, or a series of floods? Historians turn to ancient writings found on cuneiform tablets, observing that the flood story has appeared many times in different sources. The Ark is often depicted as rectangular in shape, but another possibility is the round "basket boat,"



Joseph: Carpenter of Steel ★★★1/2

(2015) 47 min. DVD: \$14.99. Lutheran Hour Ministries (dist. by Vision Video).

The Christmas story is familiar to many (Joseph and a pregnant Mary travel to Bethlehem, where they find no room at the inn, and wind up having the virgin birth of Christ in a stable), and it is often told as straightforward third-person narrative. In *Joseph: Carpenter of Steel*, which is designed for biblical discussion groups, the Nativity tale is recast to be seen through the eyes of Joseph. Since there is little written about Joseph in the Bible, he is often regarded as a loving, stand-up guy who didn't understand

all that was happening but supported Mary nonetheless and ensured that the Christ child was born safely. To provide more depth, *Lutheran Hour* speaker Rev. Gregory Seltz and Dr. Paul L. Meier look at historical accounts of the era, offering comments on reigning political pressures, the paranoia of Herod, and more. The story is told in four sections—"A Carpenter Made of Steel," "The Christmas Story," "Joseph the Guardian," and "A Carpenter's Legacy," with breaks along the way for discussion. Also featuring a PDF study guide, this is highly recommended. Aud: P. (C. Block)

made from tightly woven reeds and palm leaves. Known as quffas, these round boats navigated the shallow waters of the marsh region in southern Iraq until the early 20th century. But could round boats be built that were large enough to accommodate Noah and his menagerie? The documentary visits a modern boat-building team in India, who are using ancient methods to test the sea worthiness of a large round vessel (security concerns and lack of materials prevented this effort from being conducted in war-torn Iraq). Along the way, various flood myths are discussed, with a particular eye on the Judean exiles sent to ancient Babylon, who absorbed the Babylonian myths preserved in tablets, and then returned—after which the story of the flood found its way into the Hebrew Bible. While there are no final answers here, the film does offer interesting insights on ancient boat building, the beginnings of Judaism, and one of the Bible's defining moral tales. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (S. Rees)

SOCIAL & POLITICAL ISSUES

The Burden ★★1/2

(2015) 40 min. DVD: \$89; public libraries & high schools; \$250; colleges & universities. DRA. The Video Project. PPR. Closed captioned.

Roger Sorkin's documentary argues that American dependence on fossil fuels is creating national security issues and putting U.S. military personnel in harm's way. The film notes that the U.S. consumes one-fifth of the world's oil, and claims that efforts by U.S. armed forces to ensure the uninterrupted supply shipments of fuel through so-called "oil choke points" (most notably, the Strait of Hormuz) has created dangerous scenarios that could percolate into military conflict. *The Burden* also details how excessive time and manpower was allocated to protecting fuel convoys serving U.S. military needs during the occupation of Iraq. Efforts to alleviate the problem—particularly, the adoption of renewable energy sources including solar power and biofuel—are stymied, Sorkin contends, by politicians representing the states where fossil fuels are the main economic force. While the thesis here is compelling, some problems could be traced to other possible causes, including inadequate military planning on the best use of manpower during the Iraq conflict. Still, *The Burden* takes an interesting and different approach to the debate on energy policy. A strong optional purchase. Aud: C, P. (P. Hall)

Dirt & Deeds in Mississippi ★★1/2

(2015) 82 min. DVD: \$49.95; public libraries & high schools; \$295; colleges & universities. California Newsreel. PPR. Closed captioned.

Narrated by Danny Glover, filmmaker David Shulman's documentary focuses on a

long-overlooked chapter of the Civil Rights movement: the role played by Mississippi landowner farmers in helping to bring voting rights to their Jim Crow-dominated state. Despite sociopolitical restrictions, many black families were able to successfully acquire and run agricultural operations during the New Deal years, and by the 1950s, one million acres of Mississippi farmland was under black ownership. This resulted in financial rewards that were not common for African Americans in the South during this period (the state government recognized this with a propaganda film that extolled the good fortune of Mississippi's "colored farmers"). During the turbulent years of the early 1960s, these farmers and their families provided safe haven for many of the volunteers who came to Mississippi to organize voter registration efforts and agitate against discriminatory local laws. The farmers also provided financial assistance and some used their property as collateral for jail bonds when civil rights workers were arrested. The film mixes insightful interviews with rarely seen newsreel footage and still photographs to detail the quiet yet indefatigable courage displayed by these brave men and women during a harrowing era. A provocative and deeply moving documentary, this is highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (P. Hall)

The E-Team ★★1/2

(2014) 89 min. DVD: \$95; public libraries; \$295 w/PPR; colleges & universities. DRA. Ro*co Films Educational. Closed captioned.

Katy Chevigny and Ross Kauffman's Netflix-produced documentary rides along with four members of an "Emergencies Team" that is part of the NGO Human Rights Watch committed to documenting and exposing atrocities, war crimes, and genocide worldwide. Most of the narrative takes place in Syria in 2013, as the team seeks eyewitnesses (and surviving victims) of the Assad regime savagery, but there are also flashbacks to the group's excursions to investigate brutalities in Libya and Kosovo. The revelation here is that Human Rights Watch is not a huge complex with a gleaming skyscraper and a fleet of helicopters but a loose coalition of grassroots activists who are largely DIY in funneling information to the media and public hearings. Of particular human interest are an Emergencies Team couple, Anna Neistat and Ole Solvang, who negotiate the dangers of Assad's Syria (such as the requirement that women be swathed in robes) even as Anna realizes she's in the early stages of pregnancy. An ALA-VRT Notable Videos for Adults selection, this powerful documentary—with the worst of the gore kept offscreen (but nonetheless vividly conveyed through the description and the shattered emotions of survivors)—is highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (C. Cassidy)

TWO AWARD-WINNING NEW ORLEANS DOCUMENTARIES ON DVD

New Orleans Jazz Funerals

An inside look at
Jazz Funerals;
a 150 year old
New Orleans
cultural tradition.



Who gets a Jazz Funeral?
What does it mean to
cut the body loose?
How do you dance
in a second line?
All this and more.

**** New Orleans Times Picayune



UPC# 0601707101832

New Orleans Voodoo

An "inside"
look at this
ancient religion.

From West Africa
to Haiti ...

to New Orleans
via slave ships
and revolution,
you'll learn about



the roots of voodoo
dolls, the influence
of Marie Laveau
and today's
modern practice.

UPC# 0601707040933

\$19.95 each + S & H
Visit videojones.com
or call 1-800-811-NOLA
Also available on Amazon.com

Bikes Vs. Cars ★★½

(2015) 90 min. In English, Portuguese, Spanish & Danish w/English subtitles. DVD: \$24.95 (avail. from most distributors), \$349 w/PPR (avail. from www.kinolorberedu.com). DRA. Kino Lorber. Closed captioned.

Swedish filmmaker Fredrik Gertten visits Los Angeles, Sao Paolo, Copenhagen, Toronto, and Bogota to take a provocative look at the longstanding conflict between private motorists and kinder, gentler forms of transportation—including streetcars and buses, but more often, bicycles. While the number of bicycle commuters is steadily increasing in the developed world, bikes are still in the minority compared to automobiles—the latter a product of a colossal global industry with monied lobbyists and compromised politicians (the infamous late Mayor Rob Ford of Toronto is cited here) pushing their self-serving corporate agenda to the extent of changing cityscapes and affecting urban planning. A history-minded cyclist in Los Angeles here traces the remnants of the “California Cycleway,” a now-vanished superhighway for bike commuters that thrived in 1900. In Brazil, bicycling fatalities resulting from collisions with cars and buses are memorialized in city streets with stenciled “ghost” painted memorials. The internal-combustion viewpoint is represented by a Copenhagen driver who feels threatened by the hordes of cyclists freewheeling around him. Even with the gains made by two-wheeled sustainable riders, it’s clearly still an uphill climb, and the monstrous potential posed by new car-buying masses in China and India could further tilt the balance towards engines. An offbeat documentary (check out the nude pro-bicycle protest during the closing credits) that nevertheless deals with a serious subject, this is highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (C. Cassidy)



Exile Nation ★★½

(2014) 75 min. DVD: \$24.99 (\$199.99 w/PPR). Dreamscape Media. Closed captioned.

The rough edges of Charles Shaw’s documentary can be forgiven, as key sequences had to be filmed with miniature videocams and cell phones while Shaw explored the dangerous Zona Norte, a no-man’s land on the outskirts of Tijuana. Located some 20 miles south of San Diego, the area is a poster child for dysfunctional immigration policies on the U.S.-Mexican border. Narrator Edward James Olmos (who also co-produced) says that this is where Mexican-Americans, including those with many years of U.S. residence, are summarily dumped/deported for relatively minor lawbreaking (such as drug use) and incomplete citizenship. The blame is placed on badly written laws, ranging from racist anti-Mexican legislation of the 1930s to hysterical policies enacted after 9/11. Either way, Zona Norte is a violent, volatile place of banishment for these largely homeless, so-called plastic people—Mexican-Americans who are welcome neither in Mexico nor America. No official voices from either country are heard here, although the filmmaker does talk with grassroots activists, such as the late Chris Bava, a photographer who made a specialty of humanizing these outcasts. A timely film given the current election-year immigration controversy, this is highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (C. Cassidy)

Hard to Believe ★★½

(2015) 56 min. DVD: \$19.99 (\$300 w/PPR). Swoop Films (avail. from most distributors). ISBN: 978-0-692-52284-4.

Hard to Believe details a crime so horrendous

that its perpetrators deny all knowledge of its existence: the illegal harvesting of human organs—specifically by the Chinese government—to fuel an organ transplant industry that grows exponentially each year and caters to the international market. The documentary presents allegations that China harvests organs from political prisoners, expressly from the Falun Gong religious sect (often while they are still alive), and details efforts by the Canadian and Israeli governments and determined doctors and journalists to bring these practices to light, augmented by first-hand accounts from Falun Gong practitioners who escaped unscathed, as well as others. The latter stories are horrifying, particularly the recollections of a former doctor from Xinjiang now working as a bus driver in London who participated in rushed removals of organs from live, non-anesthetized prisoners, all of whom were left to die at the conclusion of the procedures. Equally disturbing are the documented instances of willful ignorance by the media and world governments of efforts to expose the alleged human rights abuses. Also including a study guide, this illuminating, often deeply unsettling PBS-aired documentary is highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (P. Morehart)

India’s Daughter ★★½

(2015) 62 min. In Hindi w/English subtitles. DVD: \$89: public libraries, \$395: colleges & universities. Women Make Movies. PPR.

Leslee Udwin’s BBC-aired documentary revolves around a horrifying crime that galvanized India. Jyoti Singh, a 23-year-old medical student, was returning from a movie in 2012 when six men beat up her male friend and

took turns raping her on a bus. She would die from her injuries. In a culture that favors men, Jyoti’s parents were happy to have a girl, and encouraged her ambitions to become a doctor. Since they didn’t have the funds to send her to college, they sold their ancestral land. Jyoti’s tutor, Satendri, recalls that Jyoti also helped pay for medical school by working at a call center. Udwin, a British documentarian who worked with an Indian crew, also interviews one of the men convicted of her murder. Mukesh, who drove the bus, believes that Jyoti deserved her fate since decent women don’t leave the house at night unless accompanied by a father or brother. “A girl is far more responsible for rape than a boy,” he explains. Defense lawyer M.L. Sharma believes that Jyoti was the guilty party, not the inebriated men who commandeered the bus for the sole purpose of gang rape. Udwin also interviews the parents of the perpetrators, all of whom are uneducated and poverty-stricken. Once word of the attack circulated, thousands protested in the streets. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh agrees that “anger at this crime is justified,” while expressing disappointment at the violence that erupted as police and protestors clashed. Thanks to public outrage, rape victims in India are now more likely to speak out, which is a step in the right direction. An ALA-VRT Notable Videos for Adults selection, this is recommended. Aud: C, P. (K. Fennessy)

Mortified Nation ★★½

(2013) 83 min. DVD: \$59.95 (\$250 w/PPR from edu.passionriver.com). Passion River (avail. from most distributors).

Filmmaker Michael Mayer’s insightful and often entertaining documentary follows a cross-country tour built on an interesting concept: adults voluntarily going on stage before a live audience to read from the journals they wrote during childhood and adolescence. As one might expect, the revelation of secret and intimate thoughts recorded during a sensitive time alternate between being very funny and sadly poignant. Many of these volunteers expose pangs of first love or sexual desire, while others unleash a barrage of rage (with some very creative invective) toward the parents who didn’t understand them or who in some way treated them unfairly. Other folks reveal how they felt about being homeless or desperately trying to repress their gay identity or just being terribly lonely. The film interviews several mental health experts who talk about why kids keep journals and how this can be a healthy exercise. But viewers also see footage of the show’s producers vetting potential readers, sessions that look oddly like therapy. *Mortified Nation* captures an unusual project that lies halfway between comedy and tragedy, one that audiences eat up—not because they feel

superior but because they can identify so much with what they hear. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (T. Keogh)

Project Z ★★1/2

(2015) 74 min. DVD: \$295. Oxyopia and Littoral Media Film Production (dist. by Bullfrog Films). PPR. SDH captioned. ISBN: 1-94154-549-1.

Yes, the Z does stand for “zombie” in filmmaker Phillip Gara’s despairing highlight reel of contemporary military-economic-social malaise, which is structured more like a Godfrey Reggio *Koyaanisqatsi* follow-up than a linear docu-exposé. *Project Z* begins with a parade of clips from gee-whiz combat-sim exhibits from the 1990s, as young, post-Cold War soldiers practice with their new weapons both in field exercises and at software trade shows at Disney/Epcot. But all of the digital magic is unable to resolve the subsequent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in any speedy, conclusive manner; in fact, it helps contribute to a Bush/Obama-era mindset of a world under perpetual terror siege from faceless enemies everywhere (the “zombie” metaphor, which hovers between thought-provoking and just plain silly). A literal editing-flurry of doomsday sound bites is presented here from cynical academics, pundits, and experts, who throw

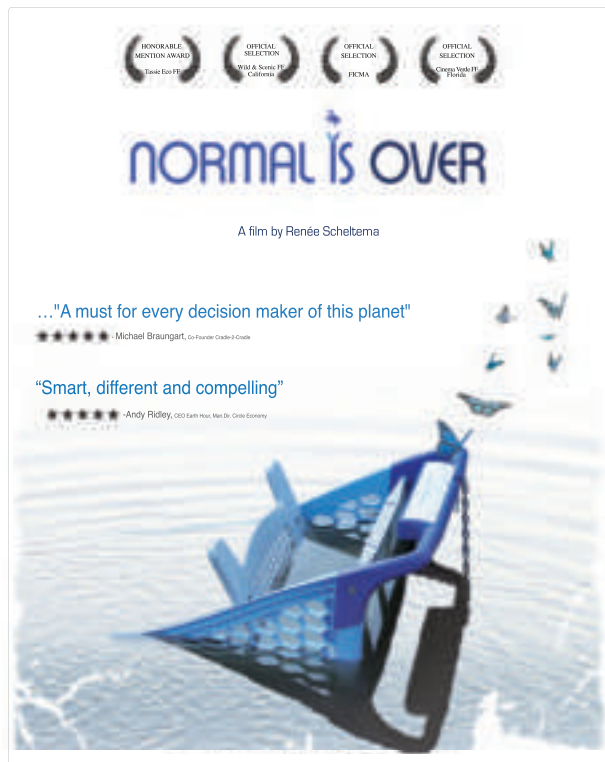
into the mix the world recession, Wall Street greed, and global warming. *World War Z* creator Max Brooks also appears, along with other talking heads who affirm the fearful relevance of Brooks’s novel. *Project Z* serves up a barrage-like accounting of everything that’s wrong today (the film was completed in 2012), but never directly mentions Islam, while neo-conservatism is called out repeatedly as the architect behind our current miseries. Other pungent quotations here come from novelist Dennis Lehane, playwright Ama Ata Aidoo, and thinker Walter Benjamin. Also including a PDF study guide, this semi-experimental documentary is a strong optional purchase. Aud: C, P. (C. Cassidy)

A Singing Stream ★★★

(2015) 114 min. DVD: \$49.95. Davenport Films. PPR.

A compilation of four separate items from documentarian Tom Davenport, *A Singing Stream* includes the titular 1985 film, which presents an affectionate portrait of the African-American Landis family of Creedmoor, NC, focusing in particular on 86-year old matriarch Bertha, who looks back on the clan’s difficult climb from tenant-farmer status to land ownership earlier in the cen-

tury. The major theme here centers on how religious faith and song have kept the family close and strong over the years. Bertha’s sons formed a gospel quartet, The Golden Echoes, which has performed widely, while girls from the family make up the quintet Echoes of Heaven, which is also quite active. And while the film concentrates on the family dynamic—observing members in their daily lives and at reunions, as well as in musical sets—it also inevitably touches on civil rights issues including integration and voting registration. *A Singing Stream* is complemented by footage recording Bertha Landis’s funeral in 2000, and *A Singing Stream Reunion* (2015), which brings the family’s story into the generation of Bertha’s grandchildren. The fourth item, *When My Work Is Over: The Life and Stories of Miss Louise Anderson*, serves up a portrait of noted African-American storyteller Louise Anderson, and is largely composed of interviews conducted with Anderson from 1989-94, and illustrated with archival material and recollections from her sisters. Both Landis and Anderson emerge as strong women who overcame the incredible obstacles posed by segregation while forging independent, productive lives for themselves in the South. An engaging and thought-provoking collection, this is recommended. Aud: C, P. (F. Swietek)



DVD: \$ 24.95

93 min. Color

Original: English

PPR available

UPC: 885007581277

Release date: April 2016

Ecology, economy, nature, agriculture, endangered species.

Documentary offering various solutions to reverse the path of global decline.

"Smart, different and compelling. An educational journey about money and the planet we should all go on."

Andy Ridley, Co-Founder Earth Hour & Managing Director Circle Economy

"A catalyst for changing the world, and a must for every decision maker in this world."

Prof Michael Braungart, Co-founder Cradle-2-Cradle

"I've attended many film festivals, and I can't think of a film that has impressed me as much as yours did, nor received a standing ovation."

Steve Nicola, Biologist

In *Normal Is Over*, filmmaker and TV journalist Renée Scheltema, examines how our economic and financial systems connect to climate change, species extinction, depletion of critical natural resources, and industrial control of our food production. Solutions that could be implemented immediately are illustrated, from everyday fixes to rethinking the overarching myths of our time. This film offers science, inspiration and hope.

For more information, and to watch the trailer, visit

<http://normalisoverthemovie.com/>

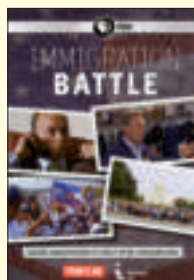
or write to:

info@normalisoverthemovie.com

Immigration Battle ★★★

(2015) 120 min. DVD: \$24.99 (\$54.99 w/PPR). PBS Video. SDH captioned. ISBN: 978-1-62789-521-7.

One of the most contentious political issues of recent years—especially this election cycle—is what is routinely described as our broken immigration system. Eleven million undocumented men, women, and children now reside in the United States, with no clear path to citizenship, or consensus on what to do about it. Filmmakers Shari Robertson and Michael Camerini's PBS-aided *Frontline/Independent Lens* documentary takes viewers to the bottleneck of the battle: the United States Congress. Shortly after Obama's 2012 re-election, there was hope that some common ground could be found with bipartisan efforts from the "Gang of 8," pressure from the "Dreamers" (college age children of undocumented parents), and the help of former House Speaker John Boehner, who was committed to finding a solution. House member Democrat Luis Guterrez is passionate about the issue here, walking a fine line between cooperation, confrontation, and civil disobedience. Over everything looms the threat of deportation and the splitting up of families. The documentary clearly shows today's toxic political atmosphere, including the fact that Republican legislators from gerrymandered districts don't need Latino voters; the threats of government shutdowns; a confrontational Tea Party lobby; and the constant background noise supplied by conservative talk radio and cable TV commentators. For the Dreamers, emotions run the gamut from hope to frustration, anger, and despair, as House votes are scuttled and mass deportations continue (Obama is scornfully labeled the "deporter in chief"). Republicans routinely cite the "trust issue"—a catch-all ranging from GOP displeasure with Obamacare to security concerns—and it's hard to see any progress being made until after the 2016 election. Offering a solid overview (even if it is unlikely to change many minds) of an urgent, complex crisis, this timely film is recommended. Aud: H, C, P. (S. Rees)



and keeping a handle on extracurricular activities. Noting that "you are not alone," this reassuring guidance title is recommended. Aud: E, I, P. (J. Williams-Wood)

EDUCATION

Big Dream ★★★

(2015) 90 min. DVD: \$49.99 (\$125 w/PPR); public libraries; \$295 w/PPR: colleges & universities. DRA. Collective Eye. Closed captioned.

The young women profiled in filmmaker Kelly Cox's *Big Dream* are all pursuing goals tied to STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). Cassidy, a senior at Iowa State University, enjoys designing gadgets, such as an app that generates insults in Old English, which she uses to tease her sister. By organizing hackathons, Cassidy encourages other girls to learn how to code. Martha, who lives in Nairobi, is aware that many girls in her region can't afford to attend school. She runs computer workshops where she teaches the basics. Since she is self-taught, she believes that they can achieve the same. "Unfortunately," she says, "tech in Kenya is an elitist thing." Martha hopes to win the Nobel Prize before she turns 30. Cassandra, who attends an all-girls school in Phoenix, has a diverse array of interests, including taekwon do, welding, and running stage lights. She wants to become a four-star Navy admiral. Marwa and Asya, engineering students in Oman, plan to go into computing. Asya's father, appearing here with a parrot on his shoulder, believes that she could become the next Bill Gates. Bella, who lives in San Francisco, likes to design apps for mobile devices. Despite a period of homelessness, she's optimistic about her future, and credits the Big Sisters program for keeping her spirits up and the crowd-sourcing platform Indiegogo for helping her raise funds for college. Finally, Mariana is pursuing an engineering degree in Costa Rica, with dreams of someday working at NASA. Each girl is faced with her own set of challenges, but all share a positive and realistic attitude. Recommended. Aud: H, C, P. (K. Fennessy)

TEEN ISSUES

Growing Apart: The Politics of Family Separation ★★★

(2015) 23 min. DVD: \$125. Educational Video Center. PPR. ISBN: 1-56139-163-8.

Almost everyone eventually leaves home to make his or her way in the world. The young New Yorkers featured in this youth-produced documentary have had to fend for themselves at an earlier age than most due to substance abuse, immigration status, and incarceration. Eighteen-year-old Ana lives with her aunt because her father has a drinking problem. She worries that she has inherited his tendency to treat depression with alcohol. Seventeen-year-old Luis moved from Mexico when he was 10. He was happy while his family was intact, but then his father—an undocumented immigrant—got into an argument with his boss, and was deported. It's been six years since Luis has seen him and three years since they've spoken, due to the high costs of international phone calls. Now his mother works all the time, and is never around when he gets home. Eighteen-year-old Scarlett has never known her father, as he was sentenced to prison while her mother was pregnant (she doesn't disclose his crime). A self-described "proud weirdo," the green-haired Scarlett has lived with 14 different families due to her mother's inability to look after her. Now she

lives with five other relatives in her grandmother's one-bedroom apartment (fortunately, they're very close emotionally). Scarlett, who likes to unwind by singing karaoke, describes her life as a "tragic, beautiful song." That phrase could describe Ana and Luis, too, even if they don't quite share her upbeat outlook. A thought-provoking look at teens in fractured families, this is recommended. Aud: C, P. (K. Fennessy)

The Highs, Lows, and In-Betweens of Puberty ★★★

(2016) 16 min. DVD: \$139.95 (teacher's guide included). Human Relations Media. PPR. Closed captioned. ISBN: 978-1-62706-076-9.

Real-life kids talk about dealing with the new emotions and stress brought on during puberty in this educational short aimed at grades 4-6. The dramatic conceit of having young adult hosts share split-screen duties with 'tween-aged versions of "themselves" (four actors total) is somewhat distracting, but this is otherwise a solid primer, focusing on biology and hormone basics (with age-appropriate diagrams), clashes with parents and siblings, behaviors, attitudes, crushes, and other facets of puberty that can be overwhelming, such as mood swings. Pediatrician Dr. Sasha Chhabria, and Dr. Joshua Rosenthal of Manhattan Psychology Group, both offer expert opinions on the subject, and the program offers good advice on getting the proper amount of sleep, engaging in healthy eating habits, talking to trusted people for feedback,

SelectED ★★★★★

(2015) 95 min. DVD: \$19.98. FilmWorks Entertainment (avail. from most distributors). Closed captioned.

Whitney M. Young Magnet High School is one of Chicago's most prestigious public high schools. Each year, approximately 10,000 students apply for 350 spots at the selective enrollment institution, making the school more difficult to get into than Harvard. Filmmaker Kayla McCormick's documentary follows several students as they navigate their senior year (at a school where excellence is expected in all pursuits), while also chronicling the efforts of prospective



The National Media MARKET & CONFERENCE

Join us for the 38th National Media Market. This is the premier annual event where film producers and distributors connect with librarians, media selectors and other media professionals.

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
OCTOBER 23-27, 2016

Plan to attend this unique and fun-filled 5 day event!

Registration includes:

- On-site previews of thousands of films
- 3 lunches and 2 receptions
- Preferred Market prices from our exhibitors
- Unique professional development

Professional development includes:

- Keynote opening session
- Local expert panel from Baltimore
- Exhibitor panel session
- Lightning rounds

The conference is made possible by our Exhibiting Partners including:



Please check out our website to catchup on the conference updates, view our screening room register for the market or simply ask for information.

www.nmm.net | lisa@nmm.net | 972.330.6516

Class Dismissed ★★★★★

(2014) 90 min. DVD: \$19.99. 3StoryFilms (avail. from classdismissedmovie.com).

Filmmaker Jeremy Stuart's soup-to-nuts guide to the many faces of alternative education outside traditional school systems is ingeniously anchored in the engaging story of one family who sought their own homeschooling options. An unusually involving film about a hot-button subject, *Class Dismissed* begins with an airing of the typical complaints about one-size-fits-all standardized, classroom-based rote teaching. In the wake of No Child Left Behind and with the controversial Common Core still in vogue—both approaches heavily reliant on testing and unpopular with parents, teachers, and students—homeschooling is on the rise. What that means, exactly, for individual families depends on many personal factors. The parents at the center of this film make the bold decision to withdraw their two bored, frustrated daughters from a mainstream school, only to be hampered by a lack of confidence in forming their own lesson plans. To their credit, they soon stop trying to recreate the school model at home and instead investigate other possible choices, such as student-driven “deschooling” and “unschooling,” as well as an exotic system called “Classical Conversations.” Anyone who has homeschooled knows how overwhelming that world can be, with thousands of curricula for sale and as many perspectives on the best approach. But the bottom line here is the suggestion to follow the child in his or her interests and draw learning opportunities toward those endeavors. Curiosity, says one formerly homeschooled young man currently in college, is what he got from his education. Sure to spark discussion, this is highly recommended. **Editor's Choice.** Aud: C, P. (T. Keogh)



likewise turn their lives around as a result. If the central observation about the healing power of pets is unsurprising, it's also hard to dispute. A social documentary with added canine appeal, extras include a behind-the-scenes featurette and updates on the prisoners and dogs. Highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (C. Cassidy)

Natural Life ★★★

(2014) 77 min. DVD: \$59.95. Passion River (avail. from most distributors).

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2015 that juveniles convicted of murder cannot be sentenced to life without any hope of later review. Filmmaker Tirtza Even's powerful documentary offers a good illustration of why locking kids up and throwing away the key was a bad idea. Since the film could not be shot in a working prison facility, Even turned instead to phone interviews with prisoners who were given life sentences as adolescents—serving time with no chance for parole—as well as family members of murdered victims. *Natural Life's* visual component, however, is curious: the entire film is presented in split-screen, with side-by-side images of places and people (using re-enactment actors), but without much reference. But the end result is suitably impressionistic and haunting for this film about incarcerated adults who mourn their misdeeds as short-sighted kids. Several prisoners describe the events that led to murders they committed, and they talk about what life is like within the simultaneously monotonous and dangerous environment of prison. What stands out is their deep regret over terrible acts from decades ago, and the fact that they are not the same people today. Also interviewed are a few advocates within the justice system who call for an end to life-without-parole convictions for teens. Offering a compelling case that only reaffirms the recent change in the law, this is recommended. Aud: C, P. (T. Keogh)

students who hope to enter Whitney's ranks. The students' racial and socioeconomic backgrounds are as diverse as their interests, but they all share an intense desire to succeed in their specialties while also being well-rounded citizens, from the top-ranked basketball prospect who stresses academics as he coaches younger kids, to the dancer who heads an afterschool program for disabled classmates. Their unflinching desire and optimism is heartwarming and infectious, although an intense pressure to be “the best” runs high at the school, and not all students can hack it. *SelectED* balances individual stories with a sharp indictment of Chicago's crumbling public school system, where a chasm exists between selective enrollment schools and other public high schools, with many of the latter struggling and underperforming (no middle ground seems to exist). The fierce competition for spots in top schools argues that parents and students alike are hungry for quality education across the board—a fact that seems lost on Chicago governance, at least based on the facts and testimonials here. Highly recommended. **Editor's Choice.** Aud: C, P. (P. Morehart)

We the Parents ★★★

(2013) 60 min. DVD: \$295. DRA. Filmmakers Library (dist. by Alexander Street Press). PPR.

James Takata's *cinema vérité* documentary examines the human face of the California “parent trigger” law passed in 2010 permitting parents and community leaders to literally take over, close, and/or re-staff a public school that has fallen below expectations. Needless to say, the notion terrifies

local school boards and entrenched teacher unions. Takata's lens visits an important test case in the city of Compton, in which the “parent revolution” movement targets a middle school for closure and reopening as a charter school, bitterly dividing the community. Unsurprisingly, embattled school bureaucrats portray the activist parents as troublemaking outsiders. *We the Parents* is clearly sympathetic to the parents' movement, keeping the focus tight on their David-vs.-Goliath struggles up the tiers of local legislature while avoiding side issues such as race, or the possibility of charter schools ushering in religious-biased curriculums. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (C. Cassidy)

LAW & CRIME

Dogs on the Inside ★★½

(2015) 67 min. DVD: \$19.95. BOND/360 (avail. from www.amazon.com).

Filmmakers Brean Cunningham and Douglas Seirup's *Dogs on the Inside* is a genuinely uplifting nonfiction film (in a sea of depressing docu-downers), serving up a portrait of a New England-based charity called Don't Throw Us Away that receives neglected, abused, and stray dogs gathered by activists. To habituate the canines as adoptable pets, the animals are turned over to a special breed of trainer—inmate volunteers in a local minimum-security prison. As the dogs respond to human kindness, the interaction also helps improve the cellblock environment, and there is hope that some of the convicts will

NATURE, MATH & SCIENCE

Dawn of Humanity ★★½

(2015) 120 min. DVD: \$24.99 (\$54.99 w/PPR). PBS Video. SDH captioned. ISBN: 978-1-62789-397-8.

The area north of Johannesburg, South Africa, is often called the “Cradle of Humankind.” In recent years, fossil remains found in the caves suggest a transitional figure between the small-brained, small-bodied, ape-like *Australopithecus* and those who were “on the cusp of being human,” a missing link that was perhaps capable of using tools, displaying cooperation, achieving social bonds, and possibly even observing a primitive form of human burial. Filmmaker Graham Townsley's PBS-aided NOVA episode examines the search for humanity's origins,

involving the painstaking procedures of extracting millions-of-years-old fossils from the surrounding rock. In the 19th century, racist attitudes led many scholars to deny humankind's African origins, pointing towards Europe instead. Just as important as the fossil record is the nagging question about the fundamental early nature of man. Some scholars, such as Robert Ardrey in his bestselling book *African Genesis*, embrace the "killer ape" theory, suggesting that man is essentially violent (a point underscored by director Stanley Kubrick in the famous opening scenes of *2001: A Space Odyssey*). However, recent studies of teeth found in human fossils suggest that early humans were plant eaters, perhaps only seeking meat out of necessity for survival. Considerable time is devoted here to fossil recovery expeditions, made possible by slender, mostly female researchers who are able to navigate a cave's incredibly tight confines in a quest to identify and remove bones. Along the way, the film argues that scientists or anyone else seeking to prove racial theories will be disappointed. "Nature is messy," says one interviewee, and interbreeding obscures origins, so there is no simple line of human evolution. Combining complex theories with engaging human-interest narratives, this is highly recommended. Aud: H, C, P. (S. Rees)

Navajo Math Circles ★★

(2016) 58 min. DVD: \$24.95: individuals; \$149 w/ PPR: institutions. Zala Films. ISBN: 978-0-98248-006-9.

In this PBS-aired documentary by filmmaker George Csicsery, the use of math circles and math camps in rural Navajo nation schools is presented as an inspiring means of instilling deep math knowledge in students while also incorporating Navajo studies into the curriculum. Math circles are essentially student-led learning models, where kids are given the tools for understanding problem-solving, after which they work in pairs or in teams, applying those skills to unique situations. (Math camps are slightly different in that they are based on teacher-led immersion learning.) The approach caught on in regional Navajo schools beginning in 2012, and the inclusion of traditional Navajo crafts (e.g., weaving) and engineering (architecture) has helped young people appreciate the old ways even as they move forward with new tools. The commitment of families to this process is impressive: some parents have to drive nearly 300 miles a day round-trip to get their kids to circles and camps, while some students have to walk for miles when roads are too wet to drive on. An interesting film about a cultural approach to math literacy, this is recommended. Aud: C, P. (T. Keogh)

Starting with Questions ★★

(2014) 10 min. DVD: \$69.95 (teacher's guide included). DRA. Visual Learning Systems. PPR. Closed captioned. ISBN: 978-1-59234-904-3.

Designed for grades K-3, this title offers

a brief primer on questions, looking at how asking questions is an important step in learning about the world around us, and pointing out that questions are especially useful in problem-solving. The program notes that while some questions can be answered with simple facts and observations, others require more detailed explanations. Using illustrative clips and examples (including spilled milk), *Starting with Questions* explores the words we use to begin questions (how, what, where, etc.), and how the manner in which a question is asked can affect the response, while also emphasizing the critical importance of questions in fields including science and engineering. Also featuring a review and video quiz, as well as a teacher's guide, this is recommended. Aud: K, E, P. (J. Williams-Wood)

HEALTH & FITNESS

Semicolon; The Adventures of Ostomy Girl ★★

(2014) 83 min. DVD: \$248. Icarus Films. PPR. Closed captioned.

Dana Marshall-Bernstein, the straight-talking 25-year-old at the center of Robin Greenspun's documentary, has suffered from inflammatory bowel disease for most of her life, and her condition has only worsened as she has developed Crohn's disease and short gut syndrome. For this reason, Dana receives most of her nutrients intravenously. For 18 years, she saw Las Vegas pediatric gastroenterologist Dr. Howard Baron, but now sees other specialists, including Dr. Feza Remzi, a colorectal surgeon. Although her parents tried to provide Dana with a normal childhood, she missed a lot of school due to hospital stays. "The hardest thing about having a chronic illness," Dana reflects, "is how socially isolating they are." She hopes that a bowel transplant will improve the quality of her life (without it, she runs the risk of liver failure). Dana, who is outgoing and articulate, does most of the talking here. She even interviews her doctors, who explain symptoms and procedures, but she's better at translating all of this into layperson's terms. Her mother, Cari, credits Dana's sense of humor for putting people at ease (if someone tried to mug Dana, she could "shoot shit at them"). As Remzi tells Dana, "You are a resilient and incredible person." It's hard to argue with his assessment, although Greenspun's profile feels a little incomplete, since she neglects to say anything about money. Dana's parents have ensured that she receives the best of care, but out-of-pocket costs combined with flights to and from Cleveland would be beyond the means of most middle-class families. Aside from that, this documentary is incredibly informative and

DVD PICKS

Sponsored by BayView Entertainment



THE TESTAMENT OF MOTHER TERESA

D4693 \$19.99

A rare interview that captures on film the words and image of Mother Teresa, one of the world's greatest humanitarians. This program is the filmed record of a rare historic interview, captured just months before her death in 1997, and contains the Nobel Peace Prize winner's thoughts and views on many important subjects. This DVD is being re-released with all-new box art to coincide with her canonization in September 2016.



OLDER WISER WORKOUTS: EASY DOES IT

BAY2178 \$19.99

This DVD presents a safe, gentle workout that is perfect for beginners, older adults, or those that have not been exercising regularly. The movements are simple and easy to follow, but also really fun! You will appreciate the emphasis on posture, balance and fall prevention in this video. All the exercises are demonstrated standing and sitting - no lying down on the floor. Also available: *Older Wiser Workouts - with Pizzazz!* (BAY2179, \$19.99)

bayview

Order from your distributor or call BayView at 201-488-6110
WWW.BAYVIEWENTERTAINMENT.COM

even entertaining. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (K. Fennessy)

RELATIONSHIPS & SEXUALITY

Autism in Love ★★★

(2015) 75 min. DVD: \$99; public libraries; \$349; colleges & universities. DRA. Good Docs (avail. from www.gooddocs.net). PPR.

Filmmaker Matt Fuller's sensitive documentary examines three individuals on the autism spectrum and their approaches (or lack of) to romantic relationships. St. Paul-based Stephen was in a 20-year marriage with a more outgoing autistic woman, Gita; now she is suffering from terminal cancer, and—as Stephen watches game shows with his elderly parents—it is somewhat uncertain how much he relates to his impending loss. In Los Angeles, jobless, sports-trivia-spouting Lenny has only vague and largely inappropriate contact with the opposite sex. He is so lonely that, at one point during a breakdown, the film crew weeps along with him. Virginia-based Lindsay and Dave (a scientist)—cohabiting for eight years—are so high-functioning that it is difficult to imagine either one as disabled (Dave even asks that the camera not intrude on their more intimate moments, making him more sensible than many so-called normal interviewees). But Lindsay is uneasy over Dave's longstanding refusal to commit to a formal engagement. No white lab-coated experts are on hand here to preside over the dramas (although parents seemingly parrot the words of doctors). The sweet but decidedly fuzzy lesson is that autistic adults can form permanent domestic partnerships—except for those who can't. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (C. Cassidy)

BEAUTY & FASHION

How to Sew a Travel Wardrobe ★★★

(2015) 86 min. DVD: \$59.95. The Taunton Press (dist. by The AV Cafe). PPR. ISBN: 978-1-63186-572-5.

This addition to *Threads* magazine's instructional sewing series is hosted by Sandra Miller of the Cutting Line Designs pattern company, who was also featured in *Sewing Essentials: The Perfect Blouse* (VL-7/15). Arguing that it is "well worth it" to make garments specifically for travel, Miller explores colors, patterns, and fabrics with five sample wardrobes to help inspire viewers. Outlining some initial guidelines in making choices (related to mode of travel, dress code, and activities planned), Miller illustrates methods for combining a few articles of clothing to cut down on luggage while still being able to blend them in imaginative ways. Stressing the importance of comfort, an attention to

Men of the Cloth ★★★½

(2014) 96 min. DVD: \$25; individuals; \$59.99; public libraries; \$300; colleges & universities. Orestes Films (avail. from www.menoftheclothfilm.com). PPR.

In sedate contrast to assorted glitzy documentaries that catwalk behind the scenes of the fashion industry, Vicki Vasilopoulos's film instead scrutinizes the persistence of Old World Italian/Sicilian custom tailoring, as quietly practiced by small shops in Rome, Philadelphia, and New York City. These men—a few women are on the periphery—have literally devoted their lives to needle, thread, and scissors, creating immaculate suits from scratch. Nino Corvato, after Brooks Brothers refused to promote him because of his sixth-grade education, struck out on his own and is now an in-demand master tailor. Elderly Joseph Centofanti surprised his family by agreeing to apprentice college student Joseph Genuardi in the classic techniques. And in Italy, Checchino Fonticoli helped hand-tailoring survive in an era of factory-sweatshops with the luxury label Brioni (the tailors of James Bond movie suits). An inspiring documentary capturing the dedication of artisans pursuing perfection in a difficult craft, this is highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (C. Cassidy)



climate and weather, classic looks (achieved by neutral colors and contrast), and the importance of accessories to pull everything together, *How to Sew a Travel Wardrobe* also includes packing and travel tips. The outfits here are already completed (actually, the advice is good even for those who don't make their own clothing), but the main point is to show how core patterns can be modified with color, texture, and contrast additions and subtractions in order to craft a well-fitting and good-looking selection of practical outfits. Bonus features include an index to patterns, a packing list, and a travel checklist. Recommended. Aud: P. (J. Williams-Wood)

FOOD & SPIRITS

The Family Farm ★★★

(2014) 70 min. DVD: \$89; public libraries & high schools; \$150; colleges & universities. DRA. Green Planet Films. PPR. Closed captioned.

Shot throughout Canada, filmmaker Ari A. Cohen's documentary looks at independent family farms and cooperatives, which are having an increasingly hard time surviving in the face of rigged laws, double standards that favor Big Agriculture, and environmental devastation caused by the chemical-happy food industry. The film begins by underscoring the benefits of family farms and ranches, with their local ties, encouragement of microbial life in the soil, free-range animal policy, and philosophy of cyclical sustainability (i.e., the way that different animal species benefit from one another's contribution to a farm ecology). Viewers see bison and cattle slaughtered more humanely than on the killing floors of the mainstream meat industry; produce grown without pesticides; and human harvesters who are not fearful of exposure to toxins. But

this independence comes at a price: the legal authority of regional managers to manipulate supply and demand by restricting, for example, the number of hens that poultry farmers are allowed to have. For a family farm, with margins much smaller than mass-producing operations, the loss of chickens due to these rules can have a huge economic impact. Some farmers partially circumvent that problem by selling through farmers markets in cities, but the going remains tough. Also noted here is the fact some U.S. agricultural products, drenched in chemicals that are banned in Canada, are sold to our neighbors to the north anyway, creating another disadvantage for small farms. A compelling film about the importance and struggles of family farms, this is recommended. Aud: C, P. (T. Keogh)

In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto ★★★★★

(2015) 120 min. DVD: \$24.99 (\$54.99 w/PPR), Blu-ray: \$29.99 (\$54.99 w/PPR). PBS Video (avail. from most distributors). SDH captioned. ISBN: 978-1-62789-574-3 (dvd), 978-1-62789-580-4 (blu-ray).

Popular science and nutrition author Michael Pollan's bestselling 2008 book is adapted in this PBS-aired documentary by filmmaker Michael Schwarz featuring the convivial, gentle-spoken author, who serves up some troubling propositions about the "Western diet" and its pathologies. According to Pollan, just about the only area of the grocery store selling edibles safe to eat are the produce aisles. Elsewhere, processed non-foods and harmful ingredients (high-fructose corn syrup) are foisted on the public (especially low-income shoppers) by greedy corporations whose lobbying machinery defeats public-health measures. But Pollan lays equal blame on progress-dazzled mainstream science for having promoted a syndrome he calls "nutritionalism" that substituted syn-

thetic chemicals for good stuff and waged a misguided campaign against “fat” that instead created American epidemics of obesity, cancer, and diabetes—medical scourges that other nations and more primitive cultures conspicuously lack. Pollan also explains his famous adage “eat food—not too much, mostly plants” in full detail, with no apologies to vegans that it does not entirely forbid meat consumption. An essential title, this is highly recommended. **Editor’s Choice.** Aud: J, H, C, P. (C. Cassidy)

HOUSE & GARDEN

The Greenhouse of the Future ★★ ★ 1/2
(2015) 70 min. DVD: \$44.95. DRA. Green Planet Films.

It’s fun to watch how reclaimed materials such as tires and bottles, along with some dirt, and a community of people can together create a passive solar greenhouse. In Curt Close’s *The Greenhouse of the Future*, viewers are taken through the actual building process—from laying the foundation to attaching the roof and all steps in-between—with an infectious sense of energy. The greenhouse is inspired by Michael Reynolds’s “Earthship” homes (which have a 40-year history—there are several in my home state of Colorado), and are designed to be an energy-neutral self-sustaining way of growing healthy foods year-round. Undertaking such a project isn’t for everyone, of course. The walls are constructed of old tires that require each to be filled with soil and deliberately placed (one by one) to ensure a solid building. The computer drawings make it look like a piece of cake, but given the variables of tires and dirt (not to mention people involved in building the tire wall), a serious amount of care and precision is involved in making a level and durable wall. But for those interested—and many will likely be—this program is the perfect guide, also featuring a 220 page step-by-step e-book with the actual construction plans to build the greenhouse. Highly recommended. Aud: P. (C. Block)

PETS

Pets: Wild at Heart ★★ ★

(2015) 120 min. DVD: \$19.99 (\$44.99 w/PPR). PBS Video. SDH captioned. ISBN: 978-1-62789-490-6.

Filmmaker John Downer’s two-part PBS-aided *NATURE* documentary focuses on the sometimes wild, natural side of our pets, using technology such as attached mini spy cameras and moving x-ray enhancement. “Playful Creatures” kicks off with five seven-week-old cockapoo puppies rolling around on a bed, just the start of a series of cute animals

that include Russian hamsters who compete on a wheel, sable-spotted two-month-old Bengal kittens, five-week-old lop-eared rabbits, and a verbose parakeet named “Disco.” Also featured is a deconstruction of behaviors at a New York City dog park (butt-sniffing actually indicates another canine’s identity, diet, health, and emotional state); a visit to the Japanese island kunoshima, home to an almost-scary mass of bunnies who beg on hind paws; and a ride-along with traffic-savvy pups in Cusco, Peru. “Secretive Creatures” looks at a hamster on a “secret mission,” who frolics amongst cutesy toys at night; “love at first sniff” dogs using scent in Paris; and cats going bonkers for catnip (with trippy music). Also seen here are the goggle-eyed stargazer fish (who can detect water currents), birds who sense air movements and UV invisible to the human eye; and high-Andes guinea pigs who greet their owners with squeals. Reminding us that pets are “part of the family, yet in very different worlds,” this informative and entertaining documentary is recommended. Aud: P. (J. Williams-Wood)

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

Capitalism ★★ ★ 1/2

(2014) 3 discs. 320 min. DVD: \$498. Icarus Films. PPR. Closed captioned.

This elegant and intelligent six-part series from filmmaker Ilan Ziv provides a history of capitalism—both as an economic system and as theory—while also debating its benefits and limitations. The first two episodes are devoted to Adam Smith and the laissez-faire theory of market economics as presented in Smith’s seminal *The Wealth of Nations* (1776). But the emphasis here is on the fact that the theory’s potential predatory economic practices actually preceded the theory’s arrival during the age of European colonialism, and also noting that Smith’s ideas are often caricatured as a philosophy of greed and selfishness—ignoring his complementary work on economic morality. The third episode turns to David Ricardo and Thomas Malthus, whose conclusions about population growth and wage labor were instrumental in transforming perceptions of society into predominantly economic terms. The fourth episode asks whether Karl Marx shouldn’t be more properly understood as a critic of capitalism’s excesses rather than a prophet of Communist revolution, while the fifth focuses on the conflict between the ideas of John Maynard Keynes and Friedrich Hayek to form the basis for economic policy in the 20th century. The final episode offers a contemporary alternative in the work of Karl Polanyi, whose studies of ancient cultures energized the economic democracy movement, which seeks a reintegration of societal concerns into economic decision-making. *Capitalism* com-

ENVIRONMENTAL FILMS

DVDs | Streaming

“Highly Recommended” Video Librarian March/April 2016



Removal of 4 Dams to Reopen
420 Miles of Historic Salmon
Habitat on Klamath River

The Edge of the Wild

Urban development vs.
the Endangered Species Act

Green Planet Films

www.greenplanetfilms.org

415-377-5471

sales@greenplanetfilms.org



Item #306061 Price: \$79.95 Grade 6 - Adult

Highly Recommended.

—Midwest Book Review, January 2016

Discover the struggles and successes of four different business owners in *Entrepreneurship: Be Your Own Boss*. The entrepreneurs share their experiences running their own businesses. Topics include:

- Motivation
- Challenges and Risks
- Strengths, Skills, and Training
- Time Management
- Communication and Teamwork
- Support Systems
- Rewards
- Advice for Others

20 Minutes, Closed Captioned
UPC #846742006319



1.888.455.7003
learningzonexpress.com

bines archival material, insightful graphics, and interviews with a large group of scholars, including highly influential author Thomas Piketty. Presenting a judicious, informed overview of one of the world's leading economic systems, this is highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (F. Swietek)

Entrepreneurship: Be Your Own Boss

★★★

(2015) 20 min. DVD: \$49.95 (downloadable teacher's guide available). Learning ZoneXpress. PPR. Closed captioned.

Several young entrepreneurs are interviewed for this overview of the joys and responsibilities of running one's own company. The businesses are varied, which helps viewers see that the same principles will apply across the board for selling all kinds of goods and services. A baker who specializes in visually appealing cakes, cookies, and breads talks about the appeal of working for oneself and doing things your own way. But she also is clear that her customers dictate what is successful and what isn't. Another entrepreneur—who operates a company that provides dyed powders for parties and celebrations (creating all kinds of colors for use on clothes, hair, and faces)—discusses the necessity of keeping supplied with enough of what is needed. An East Indian woman who makes clothes for toddlers—outfits with India's cultural images such as elephants, etc.—says that knowing her market audience (mostly new moms, like her) and where and how they shop is key. And a videographer who got his start shooting a friend's wedding explains how significant word-of-mouth can be, as one satisfied customer is likely to tell others about his work. A solid primer highlighting the qualities that make entrepreneurs successful, this is recommended. Aud: H, C, P. (T. Keogh)

SPORTS, GAMES & RECREATION

Ron Taylor: Dr. Baseball ★★★½

(2015) 20 min. DVD: \$12.95. First Run Features (avail. from most distributors).

Sibling filmmakers Drew and Matthew Taylor's documentary short serves up a spirited portrait of a remarkable man: their father, Ron Taylor, a Canadian who spent 11 seasons as a Major League Baseball pitcher in the U.S. and then went on to become a physician. Now sporting white hair, the senior Taylor barely looks like the Gary Cooper-esque fellow who played for the Cleveland Indians, Houston Astros, San Diego Padres, and the St. Louis Cardinals, where he was a crucial factor in the Cards' upset victory over the New York Yankees in the 1964 World Series. Oh, yeah: there was also the "Miracle Mets," the once-luckless New York team whose Cinderella story ended with a 1969 World Series



Gaming in Color ★★★½

(2015) 62 min. DVD: \$24.99 (\$199.99 w/PPR). Dreamscape Media. Closed captioned.

Subtitled "A documentary exploring the queer side of gaming," filmmaker Phillip Jones's *Gaming in Color* offers an LGBTQ perspective on one of the largest social phenomena of our time. For many, gaming is not just a social touchstone, but a way of life. Drawing on the perspective of people from the organizations GeeksOUT and NYC Gaymers—as well as coders and content creators—the film looks at some of the unique diversity challenges faced by game makers and participants. For many, the gaming world is a sanctuary from the "real world"—a place of escape and solace. But online multiplayer games (with players potentially spread across the globe) also form a "real-time" community. What happens when the online community doesn't reflect your core identity? Gay gamers are exposed to the same sorts of social risks and friction that they experience in the physical world, especially when the majority of popular games are targeted at a male heterosexual audience. Gender issues in gaming are about more than just queer gamers, particularly in the representation or absence of women (regardless of their sexual orientation). One example is the latest entry in the immensely popular *Grand Theft Auto* franchise, where the only character option is to play as a male, which naturally suits the game's core audience, but alienates others. The interviewees here are actively working through these and many other issues related to diversity in gaming, taking a big step with the first-ever gay gaming conference, hosted by the Gaymers organization. Highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (C. Block)

win. All told, Taylor did not allow a single hit in seven innings during his four World Series appearances as a relief pitcher. Combining interviews of Taylor and numerous players together with archival footage and stills, *Dr. Baseball* describes how Taylor, for a time, had an unusual deal with MLB teams—playing only during the summers so that he could pursue his education. The arrangement paid off: after going on a USO tour in Vietnam, Taylor decided to attend medical school at the age of 35. The straight-A student was easily accepted, and Taylor went on to become the team doctor for the Toronto Blue Jays (informally lending a hand on the field by pitching during batting practices). Extras include a filmmaker interview, and film festival Q&As. A delightful and inspiring look at an unusual sports figure, this is highly recommended. Aud: P. (T. Keogh)

THE ARTS

3 Still Standing ★★★

(2015) 90 min. DVD: \$24.95 (\$250 w/PPR from edu.passionriver.com). Passion River (avail. from most distributors).

Part history, part assemblage of standup comedy routines, filmmakers Robert Campos and Donna LoCicero's documentary *3 Still Standing* centers on a trio of comedians who hit it big in 1980s-'90s San Francisco, when the city was renowned for its plentiful comedy clubs and discerning audiences. The film also traces how each man—Will Durst, Johnny Steele, and Larry "Bubbles" Brown—has had to continually reinvent his career

after the Bay Area scene collapsed. Viewers will see a generous amount of vintage clips, including Durst's strong bit on the benefits of "death insurance," as well as his observations on how the U.S. scammed both Iran and Iraq when they were locked into a Clinton-era war. Steele discusses how he came to San Francisco with a routine full of sexist and homophobic jokes and got schooled pretty quickly. Brown's archival footage focuses on his brand of self-deprecating humor about his being something other than a babe magnet. Interviews with comedians who worked in San Francisco a lot and then made it big (Robin Williams, Rob Schneider, Dana Carvey) add depth and perspective to the story of those glory days. Durst, Steele, and Brown, now gray and wrinkled, still tour the U.S. club circuit and employ social media to keep building audiences. Offering an engaging look at the often hard lifestyle of most comedians, this is recommended. Aud: C, P. (T. Keogh)

A Director Prepares: Bobby Roth's Masterclass ★★★

(2015) 2 discs. 216 min. DVD: \$695. Jung 'N Restless Productions. PPR.

Bobby Roth has been directing films and TV programs since the 1970s, ranging from low-budget independent movies (*Heartbreakers*) to mainstream series such as *Lost*, *Grey's Anatomy*, and *Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* Roth's masterclass offers a practical introduction to every stage of the director's craft, with nine episodes that are devoted to pre-production preparation, script development, the design of individual shots, casting, time allocation, collaborative processes, working

Daniel Tosh: People Pleaser ★★★

(2016) 62 min. DVD: \$14.98. Paramount Home Entertainment (avail. from most distributors). Closed captioned.

Viewers have two choices to watch this standup routine by Daniel Tosh: the cleaned-up version originally broadcast on Comedy Central or the uncensored version, which is longer, dirtier, and, well, funnier. Tosh has a smart way of hooking an audience with rapid-fire one-liners and quick hits on a million different topics. But late in his show, he shifts to long stories with a lot of funny asides and a rich payoff, such as his edgy tale of deliberately stoking a driver's road rage and then getting trapped on a freeway exit with the fuming guy right behind him. Tosh also gets into some pretty dark material about the Make-a-Wish Foundation: "Dying kids have the best sense of humor. Their parents, not so much." He also has a solution for the issue of racist police: "Only black people should be cops. Problem solved." And, of course, there's global warming: "How to solve the environmental crisis: stop having kids. Then we can have a party for 60 or 70 years burning through every fossil fuel." Other funny observations include his take on art hanging in your neighborhood coffee haunt ("Has anybody ever not walked up to a piece of art for sale on a café wall and thought, who the fuck do they think they are?"). Naturally, there's also material about relationships ("Ladies, men have sick, twisted thoughts all day, and you snuggle with them at night"). "I didn't get here because I work hard," Tosh says in a moment of reflection. "I have a gift." Indeed, he does. Recommended. Aud: P. (T. Keogh)



with the cast, and the post-production editing process. A final episode offers an overview of Roth's career, which allows for self-reflection on the lessons he has learned through specific experiences. While Roth is clearly the primary focus here, this series is hardly a one-man show. Roth offers observations and suggestions on method, but clips from his films and TV work are interspersed to provide illustrative examples, and the series also features extensive excerpts from interviews with more than 50 collaborators over the years—producers, casting directors, actors, writers, production designers, cameramen, editors, showrunners, and network executives. Their comments are unfailingly complimentary, but also speak to the mutual confidence and balance between intense preparation and on-set improvisation that are required to bring any project to a successful conclusion. Nicely filmed and edited with flair, *A Director Prepares* provides valuable lessons about preparation prior to shooting and how one can combine efficiency with creative spontaneity in overseeing the making of a film or TV program. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (F. Swietek)

Honky ★★★

(2015) 100 min. DVD: \$24.99 (\$54.99 w/PPR). PBS Video. SDH captioned. ISBN: 978-1-62789-569-9.

Directed by Don Roy King, this PBS-aired filmed version of Sam Woodhouse's staging of Greg Kalleres's tiular satire about race in America features members of the San Diego Repertory Theatre acting out scenarios tied to a shoe company. *Honky* begins with Davis (James Newcomb), the white company president, and Thomas (Gerard Joseph), a black designer, discussing Sky Shoes' flashy new sneaker. Thomas says he wouldn't wear the

Skymax 16, but Davis thinks that if they can convince black youth to buy them then white kids will follow suit. But Thomas is haunted by the murder of a black teen over a previous shoe design. The next vignette involves Peter (Francis Gercke), a white ad copywriter, and Emilia (Tanya Alexander), a black psychiatrist. Even before Emilia gets a chance to ask what's wrong, Peter launches into a convoluted speech about the many ways in which he isn't racist. In other words: her race took him by surprise. The relationships between these people come into focus as the configurations shift. When Thomas drops by Emilia's office to discuss his exchange with Davis, it turns out that Thomas is Emilia's brother. Peter also discusses race with his fiancée, Andie (Jacque Wilke). He feels that she is whiter than him, because she comes from money. Just like Peter, demographic factors also frequently guide her impressions of people. When she meets Thomas, he tells her, "I find your honesty refreshing," although it's hard to tell if he's being sarcastic or sincere. Historical figures, such as Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, also add their perspectives in this amusingly profane play that leaves few racial stereotypes unexplored. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (K. Fennessy)

Secundaria ★★1/2

(2013) 96 min. In Spanish w/English subtitles. DVD: \$24.95. First Run Features (avail. from most distributors).

Ballet is integral to the cultural life of Cuba, but Mary Jane Doherty's documentary taps into ballet's place in the wider societal and political realities of the island as well. Doherty focuses on the intense training of high school students attempting to secure entrance into the prestigious

National Ballet School, where many alumni have gone on to become international stars of dance. Doherty follows a class over the course of three years, concentrating on Maryara Piñeiro, a girl from a modest home; Gabriela Lugo Morena, hailing from a reasonably well-to-do family; and Moisés León Noriega, a boy from an extremely poor section of Havana. The camera captures their training and competitions; life at home with parents, relatives and friends; and tours to South Africa, Italy, and Canada. Unfortunately, the film's quality and organization leave something to be desired. The dancing footage is often clumsily framed, and while the conversations among the students and other outsiders are translated in subtitles, the instructions of teachers during the classes are not. Doherty's narration, delivered in curiously hushed tones, fills in some but not all gaps, and the documentary never escapes from a meandering, somewhat unfocused feel. But how the three students ultimately fare raises interesting issues about Cuban society, and their story ends with a surprising twist that adds a political aspect. Extras include a photo gallery and a text bio of Doherty. An interesting documentary that is somewhat undermined by production and editing choices, this is a strong optional purchase. Aud: C, P. (F. Swietek)

Video Acquisition =



?



=



firm orders approval plans
shelf-ready

foreign imports small distributors
out of print titles streaming video

www.ActionLibraryMedia.com
800-886-4408

Tarr Bela: I Used to Be a Filmmaker

★★★

(2013) 85 min. DVD: \$99.95; public libraries; \$350; colleges & universities. The Cinema Guild. PPR. ISBN: 0-7815-1472-X.

The works of Hungarian filmmaker Béla Tarr (who is referred to with the Hungarian protocol of putting the surname first) will never be mistaken for multiplex fare: his seven-hour-plus epic *Sátántangó* (1994) and the emotionally devastating *Werckmeister Harmonies* (2000) demand a degree of patience lacking in many filmgoers, while his popularity in the United States has been limited to aficionados of challenging art house films. For those unfamiliar with Tarr's work, French director Jean-Marc Lamoure's documentary centering on the production of Tarr's final film before retirement, *The Turin Horse* (2011), offers a fine introduction to the artist and his approach to cinema. In stark contrast to the bleakness and severity of his films, Tarr comes across as a charming individual who reigns over the set like a pleasant regent (insisting on a "feudal system" where democracy does not take root). Despite his authoritarian proclamations, Tarr carefully orchestrates the cast and crew in a clever manner that winds up empowering his assembled talent to their fullest as they collaborate in bringing his vision for *The Turin Horse* to life. The film also gives attention to Tarr's wife and co-director/editor Ágnes Hranitzky, whose input has often been underplayed in critical appreciation of Tarr's work. A solid behind-the-scenes documentary that may encourage viewers to seek out Tarr's canon, this is recommended. Aud: C, P. (P. Hall)

This May Be the Last Time ★★★

(2014) 93 min. DVD: \$24.99. BOND/360 (avail. from www.amazon.com).

Director Sterlin Harjo's *This May Be the Last Time* serves two purposes: to document Native American spiritual songs, and to revisit his grandfather's mysterious disappearance. Although he attempts to tie the two together, they work best as separate narrative strands. In 1962, Oklahoma authorities found the wreckage of Pete Harjo's car, but no sign of his body. While searching for Pete, his relatives sang songs. Now, Harjo sets out to learn more about these enduring hymns. During the Trail of Tears march in the 1800s, Harjo's ancestors sang songs in which Christian and Native imagery converged. Harjo interviews several Oklahoma citizens, who not only explain how the songs fit into their lives, but also often sing a capella renditions. Says Joy Harjo (no apparent relation), "A song appears when it's needed." Wotko Long sang to himself while serving in Vietnam. In the midst of the horrors he witnessed, the songs brought him comfort. Harjo's grandfather, who fought in World War II, shared an interest in music, but instead of singing in a church, he played standup bass in a swing band. Jessie,

his widow, remembers that he was well liked in the community. She was particularly fond of a Native adaptation of the Negro spiritual "This May Be the Last Time," which would gain fame from cover versions by the Staple Singers and the Rolling Stones. Hugh Foley, a radio show host, has been attending a Native church for years. Inspired by the connection between Native American, Negro, and Scottish spirituals, he has been working on a book about Muscogee Creek hymns. As he puts it, they represent "the first American music." An interesting music documentary with a personal touch, this is recommended. Aud: C, P. (K. Fennessy)

The Wandering Muse ★★★

(2015) 94 min. DVD: \$79; public libraries & high schools; \$249 w/PPR; colleges & universities. Seventh Art Releasing.

The iconic Jewish phrase ("the wandering Jew") that inspired the title of Tamás Wormser's documentary seems appropriate for a film that draws a kaleidoscopic portrait of peripatetic Jewish musicians who fuse past traditions with modern styles to create something vital and contemporary. Shot over a period of some seven years, the documentary features numerous narrative threads, from a pair of Argentinean pals who play klezmer music with some added tango touches, to a Montreal performer who mixes cantor prayer with jazz and hip-hop, to a portrait of Ugandan villagers who mingle Hebrew chant with African drums. Other segments feature an American from Detroit who unearthed protest songs hailing from Russia and Germany in the early 20th century, and a Moroccan woman in Tangiers who sings a haunting Judeo-Spanish melody from the Sephardic tradition. Wormser's film perhaps mimics the title too much in that it's rather lackadaisically structured, meandering from subject to subject and place

to place, while the musicians themselves are only sketchily portrayed. But the range of music is impressive, and the performances are treated with deserving respect, resulting in a rich tapestry of the myriad ways in which performing artists are expressing their Jewish identity musically in the modern world. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (F. Swietek)

Women Aren't Funny ★★1/2

(2016) 83 min. DVD: \$59.95 (\$250 w/PPR from edu.passionriver.com). Passion River (avail. from most distributors).

In her rambling documentary, Bonnie McFarlane hits the road to ask her peers if they think that women are funny. McFarlane has a stake in the answers, since she herself works as a standup comedian, often as an opening act for her husband, Rich Vos. She met Vos when she appeared on *Last Comic Standing*, where he served as a judge. McFarlane starts by citing statements from Jerry Lewis and Christopher Hitchens to the effect that comedy favors the male of the species (McFarlane's attempt to interview Hitchens, who died in 2011, suggests that she spent years on this project). Joan Rivers and Chelsea Peretti find such dismissals ridiculous, but not all of the male speakers agree, since Artie Lange and Patrice O'Neal find men funnier, while acknowledging that looks are less of a factor in male comic success. Speakers of both genders note that male comedians outnumber women so extensively that it's hard to take negative comparisons too seriously. There are insightful interviews here with Susie Essman, Colin Quinn, and others, but the film itself looks like a home movie (shaky camerawork, under-lit nightclub scenes, etc.), and is bogged down with too much extraneous material about McFarlane's life and career. McFarlane attempts to spice things up by speaking in the third person and posing as a half-nude



When Bette Met Mae ★★★

(2016) 63 min. DVD: \$14.95. MVD Entertainment Group (avail. from most distributors).

In 1973, movie icons Bette Davis and Mae West met for the first time at a private party in West Hollywood. Wes Wheadon, a bartender at the event, had the good instinct to tape record the conversation between the film legends on a cheap cassette recorder (the recording was later restored to acceptable—if not pristine—audio quality). Wheadon directs *When Bette Met Mae*, an amusing film in which lookalike actors playing Davis, West, and their respective escorts mime to the old tape. Davis, not surprisingly, dominated the conversation in recalling her various career and romantic misadventures in a grandly dramatic style fueled by more than a few sips of alcohol (at one point, Wheadon was ordered by the party's host to water down Davis's drinks). West, who never drank alcohol (much to Davis's surprise) offered a straightforward but cogent recollection of her taboo-busting endeavors on Broadway and her efforts to retain screen credit for her Hollywood output. Along the way, the film takes breaks to provide background information and classic clips of both women, most notably Davis teaching Jack Paar and Jonathan Winters how to imitate her iconic cigarette-smoking style. Fans of both stars will enjoy this distinctive and entertaining celebration of old Hollywood. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (P. Hall)

television reporter (a black box keeps things PG-rated). But while it's clear that she cares about the topic, her attempts to generate laughs actually distract from the film's biggest strength—the not-so-funny and sometimes rather sad interviews. A strong optional purchase. Aud: C, P. (K. Fennessy)

HISTORY & CURRENT EVENTS

Iwo Jima: From Combat to Comrades

★★★1/2

(2015) 60 min. DVD: \$24.99 (\$54.99 w/PPR). PBS Video. SDH captioned. ISBN: 978-1-62789-542-2.

In many ways, the Battle of Iwo Jima has taken on a historic importance that dwarfs all of the other Pacific military conflicts during World War II, with the iconic photo of the flag-raising by American forces becoming the symbol of Allied victory against the Japanese invasion. Filmmaker Carol L. Fleisher's deeply moving PBS-aired documentary revisits Iwo Jima in the spring of 2015 as survivors of the 36-day battle return for a final Reunion of Honor ceremony reaffirming seven decades of peace and friendship between the U.S. and Japan following the end of World War II. An American film crew follows three U.S. veterans—Lt. General Larry Snowden, U.S. Marine Hershel “Woody” Williams, and Army Air Corps fighter pilot Jerry Yellin—to the island for the ceremony, while a Japanese crew tags along with the only Japanese survivor, Tsuriji Akikusa, able to make the journey to the event. The film ping-pongs between the historical material on the ferocity of the WWII battle and the touching contemporary views of the now-elderly warriors as they return to Iwo Jima to ponder what occurred and what has transpired in the decades since they went to war. Narrated by Ryan Philippe (who starred in the critically acclaimed Iwo Jima film *Flags of Our Fathers*), this is a moving and memorable meditation on war and peace. Highly recommended. Aud: H, C, P. (P. Hall)

Maestra ★★★1/2

(2013) 33 min. In Spanish w/English subtitles. DVD: \$89; public libraries, \$295; colleges & universities. Women Make Movies. PPR.

Filmmaker Catherine Murphy's illuminating documentary looks at an interesting aspect of the aftermath of the 1959 Cuban revolution: Cuba's ambitious literacy campaign of 1961, during which young adult urban men and women (primarily the latter) were recruited to go into deep rural areas—family farms, sugar plantations—and teach illiterate people of all ages to read and write. Eager to explore new possibilities, thousands of teen-aged girls signed onto the task, in some cases against their parents' wishes. *Maestra* (which means “teacher”) features excellent archival footage and photos, including shots of long lines of girls hiking through mountainous



The Black Panthers ★★★1/2

(2015) 120 min. DVD: \$24.99 (\$54.99 w/PPR); Blu-ray: \$29.99. PBS Video. SDH captioned. ISBN: 978-1-62789-545-3(dvd).

In 1966, a militant civil rights group known as the Black Panther Party arrived on the sociopolitical scene, disturbing many while also attracting media attention. Tired of the accommodation stances of other civil rights leaders, these self-described revolutionary “brothers on the corner” vowed to fight violence with violence, which they backed up with prominently displayed firearms. When these gun-toting militants invaded the California State legislature to protest restrictions on their right to display guns in public, the conservative California governor Ronald Reagan indignantly condemned the group, calling them “crazy.” Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Stanley Nelson, this PBS-aired documentary resurrects half-forgotten facts about the Panthers, combining archival news footage with testimony from aging former members. The film makes it clear that the group's swagger was a defining style, marked by berets, leather jackets, and paramilitary drills. Guided by founders including Huey P. Newton, Bobby Seale, and ex-con Eldridge Cleaver (author of *Soul on Ice*, required reading on many college campuses), the Panthers proved to be experts in using the media, and they staged frequent protest demonstrations. Unfortunately, the Panthers also grew so fast that members weren't adequately screened, and their inflammatory rhetoric (such as calling police “pigs”) became increasingly provocative. Violent standoffs with police would come to overshadow the group's free breakfast programs for children, and free health clinics. FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, fearing the rise of a “black messiah,” stepped up surveillance and disruption, launching a largely successful effort to sow distrust among members. With the recent concern over police shootings of African-American males, this excellent historical examination of a controversial group couldn't be more timely. Highly recommended. Aud: H, C, P. (S. Rees)

regions, where there was no electricity to reach people with little education. A number of these literacy tutors, now in their 60s and 70s, recall working on the land during the day and holding writing and reading lessons at night. For a year, they became—in most cases—members of the hosting families, and they credit this experience for launching them into professional careers. A fascinating sidebar concerns the U.S.-led Bay of Pigs invasion, which failed but left a number of armed insurgents roaming the countryside, disrupting the former calm of the literacy lessons. A fine film about a little-profiled facet of Cuban history, this is highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (T. Keogh)

Vampire Legend ★★★

(2015) 60 min. DVD: \$24.99 (\$54.99 w/PPR). PBS Video. SDH captioned. ISBN: 978-1-62789-531-6.

In Hollywood, vampires are often depicted as charming and sexy, if also a bit dangerous. In the medieval world, however, vampires were regarded as objects of fear, arousing one of humanity's deepest primal dreads: the notion that the undead returned to prey on loved ones and spread pestilence—including leprosy and the Black Death. Directed by Kate Thomas-Couth, Tobey Fenn, and Nick Head, this documentary from the PBS-aired *Secrets of the Dead* series looks at vampire legends, some of which are still believed in remote parts of Europe. Archaeological digs at Anglo-Saxon gravesites reveal evidence of

“deviant burials” in which corpses have been mutilated, staked to the ground, or weighted down with large rocks. In some cases, legs have been broken, and heads or hearts removed—sometimes placed on top of the body, with the obvious goal of preventing the dead from walking. Historically, dark mutterings claimed that some corpses were “shroud eaters,” with distended bellies from drinking blood and fresh sanguine flecks seen around the mouth. Bram Stoker's 1897 novel *Dracula* fixed the modern image of an urbane Count who was capable of shape-shifting at will—a notion that has been reinforced by innumerable Hollywood films. Contrary to popular belief, vampire slayings are not quite a thing of the past; recounted here is an incident that occurred in rural Romania as recently as 2004. The film dispels some myths along the way (swollen bellies and blood on the dead can be explained by bacterial activity), while also serving up insightful interviews (including comments from one of Stoker's descendants). Offering a tantalizing mix of fact, legend, and superstition—suggesting that vampire legends, like vampires themselves, never truly die—this is recommended. Aud: C, P. (S. Rees)

War of Lies ★★★1/2

(2015) 89 min. In Arabic, English & German w/English subtitles. DVD: \$300. DRA. Film Platform (avail. from www.filmplatform.net). PPR.

The U.S.'s decision to invade Iraq in 2003 was predicated on the belief that Saddam Hussein was in possession of weapons of

mass destruction (WMDs). The ensuing war lasted almost nine years; killed almost 4,500 U.S. troops and 174,000 Iraqis; cost the U.S. \$845 billion; and continues to have negative repercussions throughout the region and world. And it was all based on a lie. German filmmaker Matthias Bittner's documentary *War of Lies* details the specifics straight from the source: Rafid Ahmed Alwan al-Janabi—nicknamed “Curveball” by the intelligence community—an Iraqi refugee living in Germany, whose lies about WMDs in his home country set into motion a Rube Goldberg device that led to deceit and destruction. The events unfold in a series of one-on-one interviews between Bittner and Curveball in which the latter—an anti-Saddam Iraqi—justifies his actions since they ultimately led to Hussein being ousted from power. Claiming to be a chemical engineer with the military weapons division in Iraq, Curveball told German intelligence whatever they wanted to hear in exchange for asylum. The testimony is fascinating and frustrating, especially when paired with archival footage detailing the U.S. escalations that were based on Curveball's false claims. Highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (P. Morehart)

Warriors from the North ★★★

(2014) 59 min. DVD: \$59 (\$125 w/PPR): public libraries; \$295 w/PPR: colleges & universities. DRA. Collective Eye. Closed captioned.

Documentary filmmakers Nasib Farah and Søren Steen Jespersen present a disturbing look at young Somali men living in Scandinavia who return to their homeland to join

the Al-Shabab terrorist group. Perhaps the most infamous of these Islamic extremists was Abdi Rahman from Denmark, who posed as a journalist during a medical school graduation ceremony in the Somali capital of Mogadishu and blew himself up, killing several of the newly-minted physicians that were ready to tackle their nation's dire health crises. The filmmakers interview someone known only as “The Shadow,” who details (from the safety of an obscured face and disguised voice) the circumstances that drive the disenfranchised young Somali men in the Scandinavian nations to reject their racial and religious minority status in Europe and embrace the radical propaganda and violent goals of Al-Shabab. Also featured here is the beleaguered father of an Al-Shabab recruit who works as a janitor in Copenhagen's Tivoli amusement center and spends his free time trying to track down his son's whereabouts (the discovery of the young man's Facebook page confirms his role in the Somali conflict). A jolting documentary on the making of modern-day terrorists, this is recommended. Aud: C, P. (P. Hall)

TRAVEL & GEOGRAPHY

Discoveries...America National Parks: California Missions ★★★1/2

(2015) 76 min. DVD or Blu-ray: \$24.95. DRA. Bennett-Watt HD Productions. PPR. ISBN: 978-1-60490-181-8 (dvd), 978-1-60490-204-4 (blu-ray).

The latest addition to the high-def filmed

multi-volume series *Discoveries...America National Parks* series from Jim and Kelly Watt serves up trademark stunning visuals while offering a rich and detailed history lesson about the system of Spanish-era Catholic missions along California's Pacific Coast. One is reminded that the separation of church and state is a relatively recent phenomenon in world history. The establishment of Catholic missions was part-and-parcel of Spain's colonization efforts in the New World in the late 1700's: churches were strategically planted (roughly one day of horseback travel apart) in areas with the most potential to reach and convert indigenous populations. The background story of these churches offers a fascinating look at the social, geographical, and political history in the region. Today, the 21-mission system (covering an area from south to north ranging about 600 miles) is a combination of museums, schools and universities, and churches—with most of the latter still regularly hosting worship services. Some of the missions have been moved from their original locations and re-established while others have not even been repainted since they were first erected. California's missions continue to hold a fascination for travelers, who will appreciate this informative, beautifully-lensed overview. Highly recommended. Aud: P. (C. Block)

Globe Trekker: Mumbai City Guide

★★★1/2

(2016) 60 min. DVD: \$24.95. Globe Trekker (www.globetrekkerstore.com). PPR.

This entertaining and informative Globe Trekker travelogue takes viewers on a guided tour of India's most populous city. Full of surprises and contradictions, Mumbai (formerly Bombay) is home to numerous billionaires and millionaires, serves as the center for the nation's wildly popular “Bollywood” films, and has a deep harbor that fuels a massive fishing industry. But it is also the site of one of the world's biggest and most famous slums—although here, too, not everything is what it seems on the surface. Hosted by the engaging and helpfully tall Zay Harding (one never loses sight of him in a crowd), the tour begins in Bandra, where everyone seems agog over the presence of movie studios and occasional sightings of big stars. Next comes Dharavi, the sprawling, poverty-stricken community where *Slumdog Millionaire* was filmed. With its garbage-strewn streets, Dharavi looks like a human disaster, but Harding gets a closer view of areas of concentrated industry, from mechanized garment-making to recycling. A lively sequence at Sassoon Docks, home of the city's biggest fish market, is followed by excursions to a 16th-century fort, a gigantic open-air laundromat (where workers wash customer clothes in pools of water), and the archaeological site of Ellora, where excavation has revealed ancient architecture. Finally, Harding visits with the great-grandson of

My Brother's Bomber ★★★1/2

(2015) 180 min. DVD: \$24.99 (\$54.99 w/PPR). PBS Video. SDH captioned. ISBN: 978-1-62789-519-4.

In December 1988, during the waning days of the Reagan presidency, Pan Am Flight 103 exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing all 259 on board, as well as 11 people on the ground. Director Ken Dornstein's brother was one of the casualties. This three-part PBS-aided *Frontline* documentary series follows Dornstein's years-long effort to track down and confront the Lockerbie killers. A major government investigation determined that a bomb with a timer was smuggled aboard the plane, an act of revenge arranged by Libyan operatives as payback for a 1986 U.S. air attack on Libya, which in turn was retaliation for the Libyan bombing of a German disco frequented by American servicemen. Abdelbaset al-Megrahi was the only operative charged, but he was released after serving only a fraction of his sentence—a “compassionate release” because he was dying of cancer and allegedly only had a few months to live. After returning to Libya and receiving a hero's welcome, he lived another five years. Clearly, justice was not served. Against the backdrop of Libya's slow descent into chaos after the overthrow of strongman Gaddafi, Dornstein visits several times, and comes tantalizingly close to seeing the dying Megrahi, but is left mostly with questions, particularly regarding a Swiss man named Edwin Bollier, who allegedly made the timer, and the mysterious Abu Agila Mas'ud, a Gaddafi loyalist at the heart of many Libyan bombing plots. In the end, Abu Agila is ensnared in Libyan show trials for plots against the state, but with the death of Gaddafi, the lack of a functioning government, and the nation's subsequent slide into lawlessness, it's highly unlikely that justice for the Lockerbie victims will ever be served. A tragic true-life detective story in our age of terrorism, this is highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (S. Rees)



Mahatma Gandhi in the house where Gandhi lived and organized against British colonial rule for many years. *Mumbai City Guide* also shows viewers the physical legacy of centuries of British and Portuguese colonization—grand buildings and churches that are a reminder of the nation's long fight for independence. Highly recommended. Aud: P. (T. Keogh)

BIOGRAPHY

Althea ★★★½

(2015) 90 min. DVD: \$24.99 (\$54.99 w/PPR). PBS Video. SDH captioned. ISBN: 978-1-62789-510-1.

In the 1950s, Althea Gibson shattered racial barriers, becoming the first woman of color to score victories in the world's most prestigious tennis tournaments, including Wimbledon and the U.S. Nationals (forerunner of the U.S. Open). Co-executive produced by Billie Jean King and actor John Amos, filmmaker Rex Miller's wonderful documentary, aired on PBS's *American Masters* series, traces Gibson's odyssey from being the daughter of South Carolina sharecroppers, to being a teenage Harlem tennis champion in the 1940s, to becoming the woman who integrated the lily-white higher echelon of the prestigious tennis tournaments. By 1957, her athletic prowess earned her international acclaim, and she broke media barriers as the first African-American woman to appear on the covers of *Sports Illustrated* and *Time*. Even Hollywood called, albeit for a minor role as a maid in the 1959 John Wayne epic *The Horse Soldiers*. But since major tennis tournaments were still limited to amateurs only, Gibson's fame did not translate into fortune. After a brief attempt to gain a niche as a vocalist, she joined the Ladies Professional Golf Association, but she was barred from entering many country clubs (or forced to dress in their parking lots). She also briefly dabbled in politics and held positions in New Jersey's state government, but never gained an elected office. Poor health and financial problems plagued her in later years, and it was not until after her death in 2003 that the depth and scope of her legacy was fully appreciated. This well-researched, engrossing celebration of an important figure in both American sports and the struggle for racial equality is highly recommended. Aud: H, C, P. (P. Hall)

The Black American Experience: Ben Carson ★★★

(2016) 30 min. DVD: \$64.95. DRA. TMW Media Group. PPR.

The official Ben Carson narrative put out by his presidential campaign is at the heart of this documentary, which details Carson's impoverished childhood and the culture of male violence that he claims swept him up, turning him combative and even—alleged-



The Making of Trump ★★★½

(2015) 90 min. DVD: \$14.98. Lionsgate Entertainment (avail. from most distributors).

This timely History Channel documentary profile takes a long view of the life of unlikely, freight-train 2016 presidential candidate Donald Trump, a brash, unsubtle, billionaire real-estate developer, author, and jet-set celebrity. Nostalgic footage finds young Trump already a mediagenic entrepreneur on 1970s NYC cable, a man who was fired up by childhood sermons from his famous pastor—"positive thinking" self-help guru Dr. Norman Vincent Peale. Son of an established (and far more low-key) developer, Trump took a chance rehabbing the rundown Manhattan of the 1970s. Earning a reputation (despite feuds with Mayor Koch) as a breakout business leader who could Get Things Done, Trump nonetheless lost fortunes with failed marriages and bankrupt ventures in Atlantic City casinos and the USFL sports franchise. But, seemingly bereft of humility or the capacity for regret, he capitalized on his own brand-name fame to enter TV and politics. First, he cast his lot with Ross Perot's ill-fated Reform Party, then turned the GOP upside down. Trump supporters may be reassured that the candidate idolizes conservative figurehead Ronald Reagan, while those horrified by Trump's demagoguery will not feel comforted by the analyses of interviewees (including columnist Linda Stasi, magazine editors Kurt Andersen and Gabriel Sherman, TV's Robin Leach, and Trump biographers Timothy L. O'Brien and Michael D'Antonio) that Trump's lifelong drive is about winning, and being elected president would be just another game to him. Sure to be popular, this is highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (C. Cassidy)

ly—on one occasion near-murderous. The salvation that Carson has described due to the intervention of his mother and her demands that he embrace education are detailed here, a sea change that resulted in Carson's admission to Yale and decision to go into neuromedicine. Carson's feats as a world-renowned brain surgeon are mentioned, most compellingly his effort to separate twins conjoined at the head. Footage of Carson giving inspirational speeches is also included, as is a breakfast prayer meeting where he was critical of Barack Obama while the president sat two chairs away. The profile ends with Carson's announcement that he is launching a bid for the White House. Regardless of the fact that Carson has since suspended his presidential campaign, this is an inspiring profile of a man who has already made his historical mark, being granted over 60 honorary doctorate degrees and decorated with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Recommended. Aud: J, H, C, P. (T. Keogh)

Chet Zar: I Like to Paint Monsters

★★★

(2015) 80 min. DVD: \$24.95. First Run Features (avail. from most distributors).

Aficionados of "Dark Art"—i.e., work that emphasizes bizarre, frightening imagery—will appreciate this documentary about Chet Zar, whose paintings of monstrous beings (often set against apocalyptic landscapes) are among the best-known examples from the movement. Mike Correll's film serves up a solid biography, incorporating extensive excerpts from interviews with Zar, his relatives (including his stepfather, fantasy artist

James Zar), colleagues, and friends, as well as clips from home movies and other archival material. The narrative covers Zar's childhood, early work doing movie makeup effects, and career as a painter and digital animator. Sensitive and thoughtful, Zar was fascinated by the macabre and supernatural from an early age and that interest is expressed in works that are both imaginative and striking. Zar's paintings and sculptures are well represented here, culminating in extended footage of Zar's 2013 gallery exhibition *Ego Death*, a performance art piece that featured not only paintings but also a faux funeral, complete with elaborate eulogies and a sizable group of mourners. Appreciative comments from others who are active in the Dark Art movement confirm Zar's central role. Extras include extended interviews, deleted scenes, behind-the-scenes featurettes, and a slideshow of Zar's paintings. An engaging and illuminating portrait of both the man and the artist, this is recommended. Aud: C, P. (F. Swietek)

Morgenthau ★★★

(2015) 107 min. DVD: \$59; public libraries & high schools; \$249 w/PPR: colleges & universities. Seventh Art Releasing.

Max Lewkowicz's documentary begins and ends as a portrait of Robert M. Morgenthau, who served as District Attorney of New York County from 1975-2009, and even in retirement remains active in promoting a variety of causes. In extensive interviews, Morgenthau offers autobiographical recollections, talking about his childhood, naval service in World War II (during which he nearly lost his life), and refusal to resign as U.S. Attorney for New

York after the election of Richard Nixon in 1969, despite pressure from the new administration. Morgenthau also discusses some of his most notable prosecutions, such as the 1991 fraud case against the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (which implicated some important political figures), and the 1989 "Central Park Jogger" case, in which five teens were convicted but the convictions were later vacated with Morgenthau's controversial assent. The middle of the film, however, goes back in time to depict the careers of his grandfather, Henry Morgenthau, Sr., who as ambassador to the Ottoman Empire vigorously protested the Armenian genocide despite the Wilson administration's muted policy on the issue, and his father, Henry Morgenthau, Jr., who as Franklin Roosevelt's Secretary of the Treasury spearheaded the effort to save Jews threatened by the Holocaust, despite State Department opposition. Drawing on a wide array of archival material and interviews with scholars, journalists, politicians, relatives, and friends, *Morgenthau* presents an engaging portrait of three generations of a family that took principled stands during careers of public service. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (F. Swietek)

Nelson Algren: The End Is Nothing, The Road Is All ★★½

(2015) 85 min. DVD: \$24.95. First Run Features (avail. from most distributors).

Filmmakers Mark Blottner, Ilko Davydov, and Denis Mueller's documentary profile of Nelson Algren, author of *The Man with the Golden Arm* (winner of the National Book Award for fiction in 1950) and *A Walk on the Wild Side*, offers a fairly thorough account of Algren's many sides as an artist, visionary, lover, and political leftist whose literary beat was society's castoffs and "down-and-outers." A number of interviewees, including biographers and friends (several seen in archival footage, including the late Studs Terkel and Kurt Vonnegut), talk about pivotal moments in Algren's life, including his experience during the Great Depression as a Works Progress Administration writer (which wasn't particularly fruitful), and his arrest in Texas, circa 1933, for trying to steal a typewriter from a classroom. The latter incident proved formative for Algren, landing him in jail for five months and giving him a heightened sensibility about America's fringe characters and social underclass. Algren's sometimes-tense relationship with the Polish-American community in Chicago—where he lived and drew from for characters and settings—is complicated, ultimately at one time resulting in the banning of at least one book from Chicago public libraries. Algren's relationships with women—including his inability to sustain a marriage—is an interesting narrative thread (Algren had a preference for dismiss-

sible one-night stands). Even more revealing is his affair with feminist writer Simone de Beauvoir, whom he clearly loved, although their relationship did not end well. Algren's political views are also examined: while never a member of the Communist party, he was associated with related groups—which resulted in a fat FBI file. Algren himself also appears in old interviews from different stages in his life. Extras include the short film "Algren's Last Night," bonus footage, and a slideshow. Highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (T. Keogh)

Princes of the Palace ★★★

(2015) 85 min. DVD: \$19.95. DRA. Vision Films (avail. from most distributors).

Subtitled "The House of Windsor's Royal Princes," this documentary combines archival footage with comments from biographers, royal correspondents, broadcasters, and imperial insiders in a dude-centric look at contemporary HRH's (although the Queen's sons Edward and Andrew are notably absent). The most thorough attention is paid here to gruff patriarch Prince Philip, Queen Elizabeth's famously un-politically correct husband, touching on interesting trivia (Philip was born on a kitchen table!), the Prince's WWII service career, and his attraction to technology and all things alpha male, which in turn impressed Lilibet (his bossing of the Queen is mentioned, with late veteran journalist John A. Mizzi noting, "I shouldn't say this, perhaps...I've heard him swear at her."). The segment on Prince Charles is actually a bit sad: quarantined as a newborn from his mother after she contracted measles, in later years they would greet each other by handshake rather than hug. Charles hated being sent away to school, enjoyed some fun as a bachelor, but endured many stressful years with Diana, who bore two sons, William and Harry. The younger Windsors and their comparatively secure and loving childhoods, military service, and charity work add an upbeat finale to the program, especially with Prince William's marriage to Kate Middleton and the birth of new heir George. Sure to appeal to Anglophiles, this is recommended. Aud: P. (J. Williams-Wood)

VideoLibrarianOnline

Visit Video Librarian Online (www.videolibrarian.com) for more reviews during May and June, including: *1 Way Up: The Story of Peckham BMX*, *Arctic Ghost Ship*, *Expanding Gender: Youth Out Front*, *Inside Einstein's Mind*, *Life After Manson*, *No Más Bebés (No More Babies)*, *Off the Menu: Asian America*, *Ruta 40 Argentina*, *Sam Klemke's Time Machine*, *Time Scanners: Colosseum*, and much more!

Series Update

The following titles are new additions to series that were previously recommended. Titles are available from most distributors unless otherwise noted.

Newly available from Universal Studios Home Entertainment is **Bob the Builder: Construction Heroes** (73 min., DVD: \$14.98), a computer-animated update of the popular series featuring fix-it-aficionado Bob and his construction equipment pals. See review of *Bob the Builder: Celebrate with Bob* in VL-11/02.



Universal Studios Home Entertainment is also releasing **Monster High: Great Scarrier Reef** (72 min., DVD: 2 discs, \$16.98; Blu-ray/DVD Combo: \$22.98), in which the ghoulfriends of Monster High are transported to the Great Scarrier Reef. See review of *Monster High Clawesome Double Feature: Fright On!/Escape from Skull Shores* in VL-9/14.

My Little Pony—Friendship is Magic: Friends Across Equestria (110 min., DVD: \$14.98) is the latest in Shout! Factory and Hasbro Studios' animated series featuring pony pals Twilight Sparkle, Rainbow Dash, Fluttershy, Applejack, and others. See review of *My Little Pony: Equestria Girls* in VL-11/13.

The newest compilation from the Emmy-winning PBS Kids series *WordWorld* is **WordWorld: Planes, Trains and Trucks** (100 min, DVD: \$9.99), featuring animals and items made out of the letters of their names. See review of *WordWorld: Birthday Party!* in VL-7/15.

The Children's Collection

(118 min., DVD: \$14.99) is the latest Vision Video release of Gospel Films Archive's vintage series of Christian-themed shorts, and includes *Rolling Stones* (1950), *The Way He Should Go* (1954), *King of the Block* (1956), *Elisha and the Syrian Army* (1957), and *Charlie Churchman and the Clowns* (1968). See review of *The Missions Collection* in VL-1/16. Available from: Vision Video, P.O. Box 540, Worcester, PA 19490; tel: 800-523-0226; web: visionvideo.com.



Akame Ga Kill!:

Collection 1 ★★1/2

(2014) 300 min. DVD: 3 discs, \$59.98; Blu-ray: 2 discs, \$69.98. Sentai Filmworks (avail. from most distributors).

Featured on TV's Toonami/Adult Swim channel, this violent and sexy fantasy action-adventure, derived from comic books, features many elements of modern anime, from strangely alluring cyborg-warrior girls to "harem comedy" to exceptionally grotesque villains to mystic combat-weaponry and superpowers with head-spinning rules and twists. Tatsumi, a confident boy swordsman, is determined to help his starving peasant village by selling his skills in the imperial capital city, which is under attack by deadly forces. Tatsumi quickly learns that the true menace is the depraved and sadistic ruling class, controlling the realm through a puppet child emperor. Tatsumi joins Night Raid, a courageous band of rebels who, being largely composed of ex-government soldiers and disaffected imperial assassins, are just as enthused by bloodletting as the bad guys. Unlike similar "sentai" (heroic team-up) adventures, key characters here die, and it's not uncommon for Night Raid to arrive too late to save innocents from hideous slaughter. Presenting all 12 episodes from 2014 in separate dual-language DVD and Blu-ray editions, rated TV-MA, this is highly recommended. [Note: *Akame Ga Kill! Collection 2* is slated for release on May 17.] (C. Cassidy)



Blade Dance of the Elementals: Complete Collection ★★

(2014) 300 min. In Japanese w/English subtitles. DVD: 3 discs, \$49.98; Blu-ray: 2 discs, \$59.98. Sentai Filmworks (avail. from most distributors).

A ho-hum action-comedy with the familiar "harem" plot dynamic, this fantasy anime (derived from a series of novels and manga adaptations) takes place in a magical realm where—after the fall of a "Demon King"—much power is up for grabs. Areisha Spirit Academy is a boarding school for sorcery, where nubile female warriors train to bond with weapons (and their associated "spirits") in preparation for whatever looms next. When headstrong male student Kamito Kaze-haya, aka Ren Ashbell, enrolls at the behest of the buxom headmistress, he scandalizes the puritanical girls by uniting with the spirit of a legendary sword—and thus taking his place amidst them (it doesn't help that the "sword spirit" materializes as a naked nymph in Kamito's bed). What passes for gravitas involves the hero's mystery background and past trauma. Almost as often, Kamito is the subject of jealousy and misunderstandings among the young ladies in the run-up to



the all-important "Blade Dance" school dueling games. The fan-service sensuality (does Kamito have a spell to increase breast size?) comes across as more childish here than leering. Compiling all 12 episodes from 2014 in separate DVD and Blu-ray editions, rated TV-14, and presented in Japanese with English subtitles, extras include mini-OVAs. Optional. (C. Cassidy)

Celestial Method: Complete Collection

★★1/2

(2014) 325 min. In Japanese w/English subtitles. DVD: 3 discs, \$49.98; Blu-ray: 2 discs, \$59.98. Sentai Filmworks (avail. from most distributors).

This 2014 anime series serves up typical Japanese fantasy soap opera anime about a teenage girl, her group of friends, a mythical playmate, and a flying saucer. The vaguely sci-fi story unfolds in a small town where junior high-schooler Nonoka returns after having spent time there as a child. Here, she finds a ghost-like younger girl named Noel who somehow has ties to the giant floating spaceship that arrived over the town when Nonoka left—apparently without causing much fuss. Nonoka, Noel, and a few other school kids renew a special bond that holds them together in order to make their wishes come true. *Celestial Method* was created by Naoki Hisaya, a well-known figure in the anime genre, and fans are likely to enjoy the vivid hues, rich atmosphere, spiritual whimsy, and insanely catchy theme song. But the melodramatic fantasy story is only intermittently engaging. Compiling all 13 episodes from 2014 in separate DVD and Blu-ray editions, rated TV-PG, and presented in Japanese with English subtitles, this is a strong optional purchase. (T. Fry)



Corpse Party: Tortured Souls ★★1/2

(2013) 100 min. DVD: \$29.98, Blu-ray: \$39.98. Maiden Japan (avail. from most distributors).

Based on a survival video game series, this horror anime focuses on a group of students who are transported from their present-day high school to an alternate reality in which the Heavenly Host Elementary School—torn down following a massacre of a group of students and staff—still exists, abandoned but haunted by ghosts who seek vengeance against living souls that stumble into their lair. The plot follows the students as they wander about, only to be gruesomely slaughtered by the resident spirits. Some kids survive, however, and eventually learn the details of the original murders—as well as the identity of the perpetrators. From a purely visual perspective, *Corpse Party* is impressive, with creepily atmospheric backgrounds. But



the characterization is rudimentary and the dialogue is all too often puerile, while the killings are extremely gory. Still, devotees of the games and connoisseurs of horror anime will likely be drawn to this. Compiling all four episodes from 2013 in separate DVD and Blu-ray editions, rated TV-MA, and presented in Japanese with English subtitles, this is a strong optional purchase. (F. Swietek)

Fate/kaleid Liner Prisma Illya 2wei!: Complete Collection ★★

(2014) 250 min. Blu-ray: 2 discs, \$69.98. Sentai Filmworks (avail. from most distributors).

This follow-up to the original *Fate/kaleid Liner Prisma Illya* anime series will confuse any viewers not familiar with the predecessor. By stumbling across a secret paranormal world based on the possession of powerful "Ley" cards (this isn't as game-based as *Yu-Gi-Oh!*—but the resemblance is there), schoolgirl Illya became a "magical girl," alongside other young classmate-warriors. The forces of evil conjure up a gleefully wicked would-be assassin, Kuro, to eliminate Illya, but instead the she-devil is captured by our heroines and put under a spell as Illya's "body slave." Kuro now feels any pain that otherwise would have been suffered by Illya and will die if Illya perishes. Masquerading as Illya's older, wilder cousin at school, the two are bonded as the ultimate frenemies. Some mild breast-size humor in the communal bath is a part of the fan service here, but the major offense is a derivative narrative that only engages in fits and starts. Presenting all 10 episodes from 2014 in a new-to-Blu-ray dual-language edition, rated TV-MA, extras include OVA shorts. Optional. (C. Cassidy)



HaNaYaMaTa: Complete Collection ★★1/2

(2014) 300 min. DVD: 3 discs, \$59.98; Blu-ray: 2 discs, \$69.98. Sentai Filmworks (avail. from most distributors).

Naru, a slightly timid and reserved Japanese junior-high schoolgirl, is drawn out of her shell when she meets Hana, an outgoing American exchange student. Hana aims to enjoy every possible Japanese cultural experience (she even plans to patronize an anime theatrical movie; unfortunately, the chance to see anime-within-an-anime never materializes here). High on Hana's list of Eastern interests is traditional yosakoi dancing, and she persuades Naru and a few other classmates to form a full-fledged club-troupe to perform pop-infused yosakoi at community festivals. Based on shojo comics, this bantamweight, loosely-plotted serial has its clever moments (including one episode with a title sequence spoofing James Bond 007 opening credits),



but the series as a whole is a mild pleasure at best. Presenting all 12 episodes from 2014 in separate dual-language DVD and Blu-ray editions, rated TV-14, this is an optional purchase. (C. Cassidy)

Locodol: Complete Collection ★★

(2014) 325 min. In Japanese w/English subtitles. DVD: 3 discs, \$49.98; Blu-ray: 2 discs, \$59.98. Sentai Filmworks (avail. from most distributors).



The Japanese phenomenon of teen “idols”—school kids who overnight become disposable adolescent singing sensations—propels this non-fantasy shojo comedy. During summer vacation, stammering schoolgirl Nanako feels lucky to become a cohort of older, statuesque Yukari, especially when a businessman uncle books them to sing at the otherwise botched opening of a new water park. Proving popular, the girls band with more young ladies to form a “locodol” act—entertainers who proudly hype the image of Nagerakawa, their humble hometown. The “Nagerakawa Girls” team competes against costumed weirdos in a typically bizarre Nippon TV game show and, despite setbacks, go on to face friendly rival locodols from other communities in a singing contest. There are teasing references to lesbian attraction (“different tastes”), and circumstances occasionally put the characters in swimsuits. But the fan-service cheesecake quotient is relatively low in this harmless BFF bit of fluff (derived from manga comics). Unfortunately, the creativity level in the plotlines here is low as well. Compiling all 13 episodes from 2014 in separate DVD and Blu-ray editions, rated TV-PG, and presented in Japanese with English subtitles, this is an optional purchase. (C. Cassidy)

Tamako Market: Complete Collection ★★★

(2013) 300 min. DVD: 3 discs, \$459.98; Blu-ray: 2 discs, \$69.98. Sentai Filmworks (avail. from most distributors).



Tamako Kitashirakawa is quite satisfied with her life: she has good friends in her high school class, loves her family’s mochi (rice cake) business, and is delighted to be living in Usagiya Shopping District. While slightly clueless, she is also very generous and loving, so when she meets a strange talking bird named Dera who is far from his tropical home, he naturally becomes a part of her family. Dera has been busy on a mission searching for a consort for his royal prince, and he doesn’t plan to stay long in Tamako’s very different world, but he eats far too much mochi and quickly becomes too large to fly. Dera becomes the audience surrogate for looking at life in Usagiya, where friendly shopkeepers note (but also readily accept) the

oddity of a talking bird who loves to show off. The show is an appreciation of everyday things and strong relationships, where the Market is as carefully realized (perhaps even more so) than any of the characters who shop and live there. *Tamako Market* is visually beautiful, with an overall tone that is delightful and occasionally snarky. Presenting all 12 episodes from 2013 in a new-to-Blu-ray dual-language edition, rated TV-14, this light but also sincere series is recommended. (L. Martincik)

When They Cry: Complete Collection ★★★

(2006) 650 min. DVD: 6 discs, \$49.98; Blu-ray: 4 discs, \$69.98. Sentai Filmworks (avail. from most distributors).



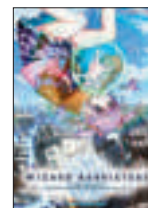
Viewers confounded over time-skipping plots will likely be totally baffled by this intricate 2006 J-horror creep-out anime (based on a popular novel/manga/video game franchise) that features a fiendishly multi-tiered narrative. The quaint, insular provincial town of Hinamizawa carries an ancient reputation as an abode of a demon-god. Its “curse” resurfaces in the 1970s, when a dam project threatens the community’s existence. Five years later, newly arrived teen Keiichi learns about a frightening series of dismemberment-murders, bizarre suicides, and the disappearances that are tied to cancellation of the dam. Keiichi assists on an old police detective’s investigation; meanwhile his enticing girl classmates (especially a pair of green-haired twins) start to seem less coquettish and more sinister, even dangerous. The same cast will go through an alternate permutation of the bloody events, after which versions of the story unfold from the POV of other characters, with different revelations of earlier incidents. Offering both occult and sci-fi explanations, the story is equal parts infuriating and compelling, while the cute “moe” style of the drawn females contrasts sharply with the grisly stuff (including fingernail-ripping torture). Interestingly, a live-action TV series is planned for 2016. Compiling all 24 episodes in separate DVD and Blu-ray editions, rated TV-MA, and presented in Japanese with English subtitles, this is recommended. [Note: *When They Cry: Kai* is slated for release on May 31, with *When They Cry: Rei* bowing July 26.] (C. Cassidy)

Wizard Barristers: Complete Collection ★★★

(2014) 300 min. DVD: 3 discs, \$59.98; Blu-ray: 2 discs, \$69.98. Sentai Filmworks (avail. from most distributors).

This uneven 2014 Nippon TV fantasy series (an original concept, not derived from pre-existing comics) earns points for taking place in a world where magic exists, without

(mercifully) being yet another Hogwarts-style high school or academy. Rather, the conceit is that law firms and a “Magic Court” exist in Japan to address sorcery-connected crime and terrorism, often serving to defend accused wizards who are feared by the public. Japanese-Canadian heroine Cecil is a “wizard barrister” prodigy, whose own mother was unjustly punished for illegal use of magic. Hired on at Butterfly Law Offices while still a teen, Cecil pursues a dangerous caseload. Secretly, she is a Potteresque Chosen One-type of immense significance, eagerly awaited by vengeful necromancers hoping to use her for Luciferian scheming. Some clever episodes can stand up next to *Rumpole of the Bailey* and other crime-solving lawyer/cop dramas, while others backslide into standard anime clichés of clashing giant robots (magic-powered, of course), savage violence, talking animals, and peek-a-boo fan-service costumes. Presenting all 12 episodes from 2014 in separate dual-language DVD and Blu-ray editions, rated TV-14, this is an entertaining series, overall. Recommended. (C. Cassidy)



Wolf Girl & Black Prince: Complete Collection ★★★

(2014) 300 min. In Japanese w/English subtitles. DVD: 3 discs, \$49.98; Blu-ray: 2 discs, \$59.98. Sentai Filmworks (avail. from most distributors).



This high-school romantic comedy-drama (non-paranormal, despite the title and cover art) seems to borrow some of the *50 Shades of Grey* dynamic...crossed with John Hughes. Teen Erika Shinohara, desperate to fit in with a clique of sexually sophisticated girls in class, falsely claims to have a hot boyfriend. Hard-pressed for evidence, she takes a cellphone-snapshot of a random handsome youth, who turns out to be cynical Kyoya “the Prince” Sata, a storied upperclassman. Amused, Kyoya agrees to go along with Erika’s ruse, but in exchange Erika must be his lackey—even behaving as a dog at his command (the hard guy has a soft spot for canines). Kyoya is the callous product of a broken home, who has no faith in love, but at times he treats Erika with fondness and chivalry (as well as possessiveness). As Erika falls genuinely for the borderline-abusive Kyoya, can she hope for better in their manipulative, one-sided relationship? Especially when there seem to be more decent guys around? Some PG-level swear words and sex talk crop up in this risible but entertaining farce of puppy-lovesickness. Compiling all 12 episodes from 2014 in separate DVD and Blu-ray editions, rated TV-14, and presented in Japanese with English subtitles, this oddball love story is recommended. (C. Cassidy)

Burt Bacharach: A Life in Song ★★½

(2015) 89 min. DVD: \$14.98, Blu-ray: \$19.98. Eagle Rock Entertainment (avail. from most distributors).



Filmed live at London's Royal Albert Hall in 2015, this celebration of the life and work of Burt Bacharach, a key contributor to the Great American Songbook during the last half of the 20th century, interweaves a live onstage interview of the 87-year-old composer by Michael Grade between performances of many of Bacharach's signature songs by British artists mostly unknown to American audiences. The charming, urbane Bacharach genially responds to Grade's generic questions concerning major influences (jazz), favorite song ("Alfie"), and fruitful relationship with lyricist Hal David, although aside from some reminiscences about childhood, Bacharach says almost nothing about his personal life. The questions are all keyed to segue into songs, starting with Rebecca Ferguson's rendition of "Walk on By" and Laura Mvula singing "Do You Know the Way to San Jose?"—both popularized by Dionne Warwick in the 1960s. Although technically a 14-song set, one of those numbers is a movie medley of 10 tunes, including "Arthur's Theme," "What's New Pussycat?," and "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head," some of which are sung in frail voice by Bacharach (who was never a strong vocalist to begin with). Viewers will likely recognize the Moody Blues's lead singer Justin Hayward ("What the World Needs Now") and white soul sensation Joss Stone ("In Between the Heartaches"), but fewer will know Michael Kiwanuka, Sophie Ellis-Bextor, or Shaun Escoffery. Backed by an orchestra, all of the singers offer up serviceable renditions of Bacharach's hits, but no performances are especially fiery (although, to be fair, the music itself—with beautiful, timeless melodies—falls more into the easy listening area). Presented in DTS 5.1, Dolby Digital 5.1 and stereo on DVD, and DTS-HD 5.1 and LPCM stereo on Blu-ray, extras include three bonus songs. A strong optional purchase. (R. Pitman)

Charles Bradley: Live from the House of Soul ★★★

(2016) 30 min. DVD: \$16.95. MVD Entertainment Group (avail. from most distributors).



Daptone recording artist Charles Bradley stars in this inaugural edition of the label's concert series in which artists offer separately-taped comments between each song. For the seven-song set, the "Screaming Eagle of Soul" is accompanied by the eight-member Menahan Street Band in the courtyard of the Brooklyn

label's tenement offices. Drummer Homer Steinweiss's Nordic sweater, quilted vest, and woolly scarf indicate a relatively cold day. Other players include Thomas Brenneck (guitar), Nick Movshon (bass), Mike Deller (piano and organ), Dave Guy (trumpet), Leon Michels (saxophone), and Paul and Bill Scalda (backing vocals). A former James Brown impersonator, 67-year-old Bradley sings in a rough and ready voice over the group's brass-saturated backing. About the song "Confusion," which borrows funk moves from Edwin Starr and the Temptations, Bradley notes that he "can't be anybody but Charles," perhaps a reference to his evolution from copyist to one-of-a-kind. Although there's no audience, Bradley still busts out the screams, gestures, and old-school dance moves of his popular stage show. The original compositions illustrate his familiarity with the soul music of the 1960s and '70s, but the inclusion of one of his slow-burn rock-and-roll covers would have been ideal, particularly Black Sabbath's "Changes," off his new album of the same title, or Nirvana's "Stay Away" from a 2011 *SPIN* compilation. Presented in stereo, extras include four music videos. Recommended. (K. Fennessy)

The Dicks from Texas ★★★

(2015) 70 min. DVD: \$19.95. MVD Entertainment Group (avail. from most distributors).



At the dawn of the 1980s, a time when punk revolved around wiry heterosexuals, Gary Floyd stood out from the crowd. Cindy Marabito's scrappy documentary recounts the history of his short-lived outfit, the Dicks. Floyd explains that a fat gay kid growing up in Austin had his work cut out for him, but once punk arrived, he found his salvation. Floyd knew that he would be able to come out at some point, but decided not to rush it. Friends remember Floyd in those early days as a character who tacked pictures of Chairman Mao on his walls, wore lingerie on stage, and threw detergent at concertgoers. In some photographs, Floyd looks like Divine with his theatrical makeup and polyester dresses. In 1979, he formed the Dicks with guitarist Glen Taylor, bassist Buxf Parrot, and drummer Pat Deason, and they released their first single "Hate the Police" in 1980, following up with the album *Kill from the Heart* in 1983. Ian MacKaye (Minor Threat) says the Dicks were "a force to be reckoned with," while Henry Rollins recalls, "They were always great, but they were always kind of shambolic." Just as the band was gaining a national following, Floyd suggested a move to San Francisco, but his band mates eventually returned to Austin, and the Dicks came to an end. Floyd would move on to Sister Double Happiness, but the occasional Dicks reunion ensures that their flame lives on. Extras include

never-before-seen footage of the Dicks in performance. Presented in stereo, this solid music documentary with added LGBT interest is recommended. (K. Fennessy)

Elvis Costello—Detour: Live at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall ★★★

(2015) 105 min. DVD: \$14.98, Blu-ray: \$19.98. Eagle Rock Entertainment (avail. from most distributors).



Musical chameleon Elvis Costello—whose work encompasses New Wave, pop, jazz, country, and folk, among other genres—gets off to a somewhat shaky solo start in this 2015 performance filmed live at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, serving up three early hits—"Red Shoes," "Watch Your Step," and "Accidents Will Happen"—that all sound better as multi-instrument rockers rather than amplified acoustic guitar numbers ("Accidents," in particular, is a trainwreck). But after switching guitars, Costello rebounds with stirring renditions of "Church Underground" and "45," before shifting to the piano for a wonderful "Shipbuilding" and a blues variation on "I Can't Stand Up for Falling Down." Costello performs 22 songs in total, joined on seven by sisters Rebecca and Megan Lovell—from American roots band Larkin Poe—who play lap steel guitar and mandolin, respectively. Performing on a set that vaguely resembles an early '60s living room with a giant TV screen (featuring pictures of Costello and family members), Costello occasionally breaks for long (and meaty) anecdotes about his grandfather and father (the latter played with the Beatles before the Queen, and is seen here in a great music video singing "If I Had a Hammer"). That these personal stories carry much more narrative weight than the usual between-songs patter from musicians is at least partially due to the fact that Costello recently released his nearly-700-page memoir *Unfaithful Music & Disappearing Ink*. In keeping with his Seeger-singing dad, Costello also comments on the plight of the working man in these economically disheveled times, particularly with the powerful "Jimmie Standing in the Rain" (which he closes by leaving the microphone, approaching the edge of the stage, and singing a plaintive bit of "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?"). Other highlights include a spot-on version of "Alison," a fun "Side By Side," and a rousing "(What's So Funny 'Bout) Peace, Love and Understanding" (so energetic that Costello breaks a guitar string)—a song that seems to be eternally relevant, especially so in these saber-rattling times. Presented in DTS 5.1, Dolby Digital 5.1 and stereo on DVD, and DTS-HD 5.1 and LPCM stereo on Blu-ray, extras include four bonus songs. Recommended. (R. Pitman)

Grease Live! ★★½

(2016) 132 min. DVD: \$21.99. Paramount Home Entertainment (avail. from most distributors). Closed captioned.

Grease Live! followed *The Sound of Music*, *Peter Pan*, and *The Wiz* in the recent wave of stage musicals to be revived as live TV events. Aired on January 31, 2016, *Grease Live!* adapts the 1971 stage musical, incorporating elements from the 1978 film version (including three songs composed for the movie) while also adding new songs. The basic plot follows the courtship of leather-jacket tough guy Danny Zuko (Aaron Tveit) and naïve good girl Sandy (Julianne Hough) over the course of their senior year of high school, with the stories of other students playing out beside them. The show is filled with songs written and performed in the manner of 1950s rock 'n' roll and features elaborate set pieces and dance choreography, filmed on multiple sets with mobile cameras swooping through and around the stages in key scenes. Vanessa Hudgens, a veteran of her own high school musicals, stands out in a fine cast as bad girl Rizzo, pop star Carly Rae Jepsen is very good as beauty school drop-out Frenchy, and the adult cast includes Ana Gasteyer, Wendell Pierce, *Grease* movie veterans Didi Conn and Barry Pearl, *Brady Bunch* star Eve Plumb, Mario Lopez, *Boys II Men*, and Joe Jonas. Presented in Dolby Digital stereo, extras include behind-the-scene featurettes. Highly recommended. (S. Axmaker)



La Fille Mal Gardée

★★★½

(2015) 110 min. DVD: \$29.99, Blu-ray: \$42.99. Opus Arte (dist. by Naxos of America).

The score to this ballet (the title can be translated as *The Wayward Daughter*) is attributed to 19th-century composer Ferdinand Hérold, but it is really a pastiche—a parade of melodies from Haydn, Rossini, and Donizetti, joined by popular tunes from the period. This 2015 revival of the version that John Lanchbery created for Frederick Ashton's still-popular 1960 Covent Garden production is well-played by the Royal Opera House Orchestra under the baton of Barry Wordsworth, who brings zest and crispness to the music. The plot is simple, focusing on a romance between a poor farm boy and the beautiful village girl whose mother wants her to marry a wealthy local potentate's bumbling son (naturally, true love triumphs). But the piece is full of delicious touches that children in particular will enjoy: it opens with a dance by barnyard chickens and later includes a comic number that involves clacking wooden clogs. Although their styles might not entirely mesh, Natalia Osipova

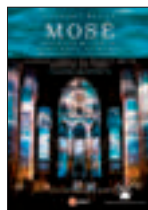


and Steven McRae make Lise and Colas an engaging couple, and the supporting turns—by Philip Mosley (in drag) as Lise's mother, Christopher Saunders as the rich Thomas, and Paul Kay as his klutzy son—are equally fine. With its colorful sets and costumes and superb camerawork, this is strong competition for the 2005 Covent Garden production featuring Marianela Núñez and Carlos Acosta (VL-11/08). Presented in DTS 5.1 (DTS-HD 5.1 on the Blu-ray edition) and PCM stereo, extras include an introduction to the ballet, an interview with Lesley Collier—former prima ballerina of the Royal Ballet—by Darcey Bussell, and a cast gallery. Highly recommended. (F. Swietek)

Mosè ★½

(2015) 102 min. In Italian w/ English subtitles, DVD: \$24.99, Blu-ray: \$39.99. C Major (dist. by Naxos of America).

Gioachino Rossini's *Mosè in Egitto* is a grand opera, a large-scale work whether seen in its 1818 Italian original or the 1827 French version. This 2015 semi-staged performance recorded in the Cathedral of Milan—with singers wearing period costumes, but scenery replaced by an impressionistic light show—is actually neither. Rather, it's a truncated edition of an Italian translation of the French version, retaining portions of the score dealing with Moses's liberation of the Hebrews from slavery, but omitting almost entirely the subplot about an Egyptian prince's love for Moses's niece. As a result only roughly half of the opera is included (nowhere on the cover is this acknowledged). Francesco Quattrocchi conducts the orchestra and chorus energetically, but the sound is muddled by an overly resonant acoustic, creating a blurriness that actually helps to obscure the vocal deficiencies. Now in his seventies, Ruggero Raimondi, once a great interpreter of the title role, strikes the right poses, but his voice is frayed, and the remaining soloists, while younger, aren't much better. In fact, the most interesting aspect of this release is a bonus featurette on the building of the Milan cathedral that includes a lovingly assembled montage of its external and internal beauties. But anyone looking for a performance of *Mosè in Egitto* should consider the superior 2011 production from the Pesaro Rossini Festival (VL-5/13), even though it moves the action to the modern Middle East. Presented in DTS 5.1 (DTS-HD 5.1 on the Blu-ray edition) and PCM stereo, this one is not recommended. (F. Swietek)



The Nutcracker ★★½

(2014) 113 min. DVD: \$24.99, Blu-ray: \$29.99. Bel Air Classiques (dist. by Naxos of America).

What distinguishes this 2014 production of Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas perennial mounted by Berlin's Staatsballet is its

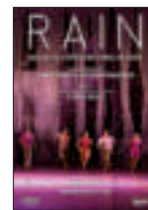
earnest effort to recreate as closely as possible the St. Petersburg premiere. Using archival material, Vasily Medvedev and Yuri Burlaka attempt to approximate Lev Ivanov's 1892 choreography, and both Andrey Voytenko's stage design and Tatiana Noginova's costumes are modeled after historical sketches. Visually, the result carries considerable charm: the sets and effects—including snowfall in the opening scene—are agreeably old-fashioned, and even though the costumes occasionally look strange by today's standards, viewers can quickly adjust. The dancing is expert as well, with Iana Salenko (as grownup Clara and the Sugar Plum Fairy), Marian Walter (as the Nutcracker and the Prince), and Michael Banzhaf (Drosselmayer) all standing out. The company corps de ballet also does excellent work, while the children (including Elena Iseki as young Clara and Linus Schmidt as Fritz) are quite delightful. Unfortunately, however, the production suffers from the orchestral performance. Conductor Robert Reimer opts for unusually slow tempi, especially during the first act, and the playing lacks sparkle and verve, sometimes even coming across as positively slack. While this staging does give ballet connoisseurs the opportunity to experience *The Nutcracker* in something very close to its original form, those more concerned with enchantment than history should look elsewhere, such as the London Royal Opera House production (VL-3/11). Presented in Dolby Digital 5.1 and PCM stereo on DVD, and DTS-HD 5.1 and PCM stereo on Blu-ray, this is a strong optional purchase. (F. Swietek)



Rain ★★★

(2014) 74 min. DVD: \$24.99, Blu-ray: \$29.99. Bel Air Classiques (dist. by Naxos of America).

Belgian choreographer Anne Teresa De Keersmaecker's 2001 ballet, created for her own company, was added to the repertory of the Ballet de l'Opéra de Paris a decade later, and it is the French who present this 2014 performance. Set against the insistently propulsive minimalist music of Steve Reich's 1976 *Music for 18 Musicians*—played here with extraordinary concentration by the Brussels-based percussion ensemble Ictus (with occasional additions by Synergy Vocals), the piece features 10 dancers (seven women, three men), who run, jump, and cavort about the bare stage virtually nonstop. Their movements—also incorporating a semi-circle of dangling ropes that when struck shimmer in the light like a waterfall—could be interpreted



as gamboling in a rainstorm, particularly when some of the performers slide across the floor as if splashing in puddles. But such literalism isn't really necessary or necessarily appropriate for the vivacious explosion of energy in this piece, which occasionally pauses to focus on smaller groups and couples (emotional changes are italicized by variations in costume colors—beige, with periodic flashes of pink and red—and lighting design). Regardless, the overall effect does suggest the ways in which water ebbs and flows, reflecting any surroundings on its surface. For the most part, this live performance is captured well, although the camerawork can be very busy, with numerous cutaways to particular dancers that sometimes obscure the overall composition. Still, *Rain* is an evocative display of modern dance, performed with a large amount of verve. Presented in Dolby Digital 5.1 and PCM stereo on DVD, and DTS-HD 5.1 and PCM stereo on Blu-ray, this is recommended. (F. Swietek)

Slash: Raised on the Sunset Strip ★★

(2014) 90 min. DVD: \$16.98, Blu-ray: \$21.98. Shout! Factory (avail. from most distributors). SDH captioned.



Friends and associates of superstar guitarist Slash recount his life story in filmmaker Martyn Atkins's admiring portrait. Slash himself also provides some of the narrative, although as singer and collaborator Myles Kennedy notes, he prefers to communicate through his instrument. Unlike many unknowns who moved to Hollywood to make their name, Saul Hudson (aka Slash) grew up surrounded by famous people, since his African-American mother, Ola Hudson, was a costume designer, and his British father, Anthony Hudson, was a graphic designer. Tony oversaw album covers for David Geffen's acts, including Joni Mitchell and Neil Young, while Ola designed costumes for the Pointer Sisters and David Bowie (with whom she had an affair). Nonetheless, Slash didn't start out as a musician: drawing and BMX bike racing were his primary childhood pursuits, until he discovered the guitar. Slash met Geffen when he was a child and says that the record magnate had no idea who he was when he signed Guns N' Roses. The musician explains that he owes his moniker to his friend Matt's father, actor Seymour Cassel, who marveled at the way Hudson was always zipping from one place to another. Band mates, including Steven Adler, remember their days in Guns N' Roses, which Slash left in 1995 (a departure that may explain the notable absence here of singer Axl Rose), while his ex-wife, Perla, talks about their children and the pacemaker that encouraged him to

get clean. Other friends and inspirations, such as Alice Cooper and Dave Grohl, are also on hand to pay their respects. Recommended. (K. Fennessy)

Swan Lake ★★★

(2015) 125 min. DVD: \$24.99, Blu-ray: \$29.99. Bel Air Classics (dist. by Naxos of America).



Tchaikovsky's ever-popular ballet about the fickle Prince Siegfried—whose devotion to the enchanted swan maiden Odette is undone as a result of his seduction by Odile, the black swan who is Odette's dark double—is presented in this 2015 production from Moscow's famed Bolshoi Theatre. Svetlana Zakharova cuts an elegant though also very cool figure in the dual role of Odette/Odile, while Denis Rodkin is an athletic Siegfried. The corps is in exquisite form, the sets and costumes are lavish, and the orchestra plays with loving care under the baton of Pavel Sorokin. The main stumbling block for some will be that the staging follows the revision of the libretto by Yuri Grigorovich, which eliminates many details of the original and closes with an enigmatic finale that suggests the entire tale was merely a dream concocted by Von Rothbart, here called the Evil Genius and danced with abandon by Artemy Belyakov (despite the changes, Grigorovich's choreography still remains impressive). Although not superior to earlier mountings from Paris (VL-9/07), London (VL-3/10), and Vienna (VL-3/15), this is a fine version that will be especially appreciated by fans of the Bolshoi. Presented in Dolby Digital 5.1 and PCM stereo on DVD, and DTS-HD 5.1 and PCM stereo on Blu-ray, this is recommended. (F. Swietek)

Tannhäuser ★★★1/2

(2014) 192 min. In German w/ English subtitles. DVD: 2 discs, \$39.99; Blu-ray: \$39.99. Bel Air Classics (dist. by Naxos of America).



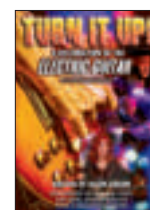
When a choreographer as famous and innovative as Sasha Waltz is tapped to direct an opera, one expects that dance will play a significant role—and so it does in this 2014 production of Richard Wagner's tale of a knight torn between carnal lust and pure love staged at the Staatsoper Berlin. Waltz has hardly turned the piece into a virtual ballet, but her influence clearly encouraged conductor Daniel Barenboim to add the extended bacchanale from the Paris version of the opera to the Dresden score he otherwise follows, giving her troupe a further chance to shine (elsewhere, even though the background dancing can be occasionally distracting, it is generally

well-integrated into the action). Set in a vaguely 19th-century milieu rather than the Middle Ages, the staging here is quite restrained and elegant, with particularly refined costumes and lighting. Musically, the performance is a very strong one, with Barenboim providing powerful orchestral background for some wonderfully exceptional vocalism from Peter Seiffert as Tannhäuser, Peter Mattei as Wolfram (who delivers the famous song to the evening star beautifully), and René Pape as Landgraf Hermann. The women who represent Lust and Love—Marina Prudenskaya as Venus and Ann Petersen as Elisabeth—are only slightly less impressive. Presented in Dolby Digital 5.1 and PCM stereo on DVD, and DTS-HD 5.1 and PCM stereo on Blu-ray, this is highly recommended. (F. Swietek)

Turn It Up! A Celebration of the Electric Guitar

★★1/2

(2016) 2 discs. 87 min. DVD or Blu-ray: \$19.98. Open E Entertainment (avail. from most distributors).



Robert Radler spent eight years working on *Turn It Up!*, an informative if also scattershot documentary exploring all things related to the electric guitar. Actor Kevin Bacon, a guitarist in the Bacon Brothers, proves an affable host who helps to tie the disparate parts together. The more successful segments include his overview of the history of the instrument from the 1940s to today, footage of greats like Freddie King and Mike Bloomfield, and demonstrations of various techniques and models, including the famed Fender Stratocaster, Les Paul, in one of his last interviews, talks about his own instrumental innovations, such as the Gibson Les Paul. Other notable speakers include B.B. King, Robbie Krieger (the Doors), Steve Lukather (Toto), and Nancy Wilson (Heart). To Paul Stanley of KISS, the electric guitar is "an instrument that will always win, because you can always crank it up." Radler also profiles up-and-coming players, like Kristen Capolino, a nimble-fingered young virtuoso. But excerpts from guitar conventions, band competitions, and rock and roll fantasy camps are not as interesting. Nor is the input from a few well-heeled hobbyists, such as former Hungarian Ambassador András Simonyi and former New Hampshire Congressman Paul Hodes, who share the professionals' enthusiasm for the guitar, but have little to offer. Hodes acknowledges as much when he references King and Eric Clapton while talking about the difficulty of developing a unique tone, concluding, "Tone is the reason they're rock stars, and I'm a congressman." Extras include extended interviews. A strong optional purchase. (K. Fennessy)

Contact information for distributors of titles reviewed in this issue are listed below. Some titles must be ordered direct, while others are available from a wide variety of distributors.

Alexander Street Press
3212 Duke St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
Tel: (800) 889-5937
Web: academicvideostore.com

The AV Cafe
6201 S. 58th St., Ste. A
Lincoln, NE 68516
Tel: (877) 228-2233
Web: theavcafe.com

Bennett-Watt HD Productions
13021 244th Ave. SE
Issaquah, WA 98027
Tel: (800) 543-3764
Web: bennett-watt.com

Bullfrog Films
P.O. Box 149
Oley, PA 19547
Tel: (800) 813-3764
Web: bullfrogfilms.com

California Newsreel
P.O. Box 3400
Lancaster, PA 17601
Tel: (877) 811-7495
Web: newsreel.org

The Cinema Guild
115 W. 30th St., Ste. 800
New York, NY 10001
Tel: (800) 723-5522
Web: cinemaguild.com

Collective Eye
2305 SE Yamhill St., Ste. 101
Portland, OR 97214
Tel: (503) 232-5345
Web: collectiveeye.org

Davenport Films
11324 Pearlstone Lane
Delaplane, VA 20144
Tel: (540) 592-3701
Web: davenportfilms.com

Dreamscape Media
6940 Hall St.
Holland, OH 43528
Tel: (877) 983-7326
Web: dreamscapeab.com

Educational Video Center
16 Clarkson St., Ste. 401
New York, NY 10014
Tel: (212) 465-9366
Web: evc.org

Film Movement
109 West 27th St., Ste. 9B
New York, NY 10001
Tel: (866) 937-3456
Web: filmmovement.com

First Run Features
630 Ninth Ave., Ste. 1213
New York, NY 10036
Tel: (800) 229-8575
Web: firstrunfeatures.com

Green Planet Films
P.O. Box 247
Corte Madera, CA 94976
Tel: (415) 377-5471
Web: greenplanetfilms.org

Human Relations Media
41 Kensico Dr.
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549
Tel: (800) 431-2050
Web: hrmvideo.com

Icarus Films
32 Court St., 21st Fl.
Brooklyn, NY 11201
Tel: (800) 876-1710
Web: icarusfilms.com

Jung 'N Restless Productions
11400 W. Olympic Blvd., Ste. 590
Los Angeles, CA 90064
Web: bobbyroth.net

Kino Lorber Edu
333 W. 39th St., Ste. 503
New York, NY 10018
Tel: (212) 629-6880
Web: kinolorberedu.com

Learning ZoneXpress
P.O. Box 1022
Owatonna, MN 55060
Tel: (888) 455-7003
Web: learningzonexpress.com

Music Box Films
173 N. Morgan St.
Chicago, IL 60607
Tel: (312) 241-1320
Web: musicboxfilms.com

National Film Board of Canada
P.O. Box 6100, Centre-Ville Station
Montreal, Quebec H3C 3H5 CANADA
Tel: (800) 542-2164
Web: nfb.ca

Naxos of America
1810 Columbia Ave., Ste. 28
Franklin, TN 37064
Tel: (615) 771-9393
Web: naxos.com

Passion River
154 Mt. Bethel Rd.
Warren, NJ 07059
Tel: (732) 321-0711
Web: passionriver.com

PBS Video
2100 Crystal Dr.
Arlington, VA 22202
Tel: (800) 344-3337
Web: pbs.org

Ro*co Films Educational
80 Liberty Ship Way, Ste. 8
Sausalito, CA 94965
Tel: (415) 332-6471
Web: rocoeducational.com

Seventh Art Releasing
6579 Pickwick St.
Los Angeles, CA 90042
Tel: (323) 259-8259
Web: 7thart.com

Swoop Films
P.O. Box 357
Otisville, NY 10963
Tel: (929) 344-2310
Web: swoopfilms.com

TMW Media Group
2321 Abbot Kinney Blvd.
Venice, CA 90291
Tel: (800) 262-8862
Web: tmwmedia.com

The Video Project
145 Ninth St., Ste. 102
San Francisco, CA 94103
Tel: (800) 475-2638
Web: videoproject.com

Vision Films
14945 Ventura Blvd., Ste. 306
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
Tel: (818) 784-1702
Web: visionfilms.net

Vision Video
P.O. Box 540
Worcester, PA 19490
Tel: (800) 523-0226
Web: visionvideo.com

Weston Woods Studios
90 Old Sherman Tpke.
Danbury, CT 06816
Tel: (800) 243-5020
Web: westonwoods.scholastic.com

Women Make Movies
115 W. 29th St., Ste. 1200
New York, NY 10001
Tel: (212) 925-0606
Web: wmm.com

Zala Films
P.O. Box 22833
Oakland, CA 94609
Tel: (510) 428-9284
Web: zalafilms.com



MUST-HAVES FROM THE CRITERION COLLECTION



WIM WENDERS: THE ROAD TRILOGY

DVD EDITION • SRP: \$99.95
ISBN: 978-1-68143-158-1

BLU-RAY EDITION • SRP: \$99.95
ISBN: 978-1-68143-154-3



THE PLAYER

DVD EDITION • SRP: \$29.95
ISBN: 978-1-68143-153-6

BLU-RAY EDITION • SRP: \$39.95
ISBN: 978-1-68143-152-9



CLOUDS OF SILS MARIA

DVD EDITION • SRP: \$29.95
ISBN: 978-1-68143-173-4

BLU-RAY EDITION • SRP: \$39.95
ISBN: 978-1-68143-172-7



DR. STRANGELOVE

DVD EDITION • SRP: \$29.95
ISBN: 978-1-68143-171-0

BLU-RAY EDITION • SRP: \$39.95
ISBN: 978-1-68143-170-3



LA CHIENNE

DVD EDITION • SRP: \$29.95
ISBN: 978-1-68143-165-9

BLU-RAY EDITION • SRP: \$39.95
ISBN: 978-1-68143-164-2



HERE COMES MR. JORDAN

DVD EDITION • SRP: \$29.95
ISBN: 978-1-68143-169-7

BLU-RAY EDITION • SRP: \$39.95
ISBN: 978-1-68143-168-0



IN A LONELY PLACE

DVD EDITION • SRP: \$29.95
ISBN: 978-1-68143-149-9

BLU-RAY EDITION • SRP: \$39.95
ISBN: 978-1-68143-148-2



LE AMICHE

DVD EDITION • SRP: \$29.95
ISBN: 978-1-68143-163-5

BLU-RAY EDITION • SRP: \$39.95
ISBN: 978-1-68143-162-8



FANTASTIC PLANET

DVD EDITION • SRP: \$29.95
ISBN: 978-1-68143-167-3

BLU-RAY EDITION • SRP: \$39.95
ISBN: 978-1-68143-166-6



THE KENNEDY FILMS OF ROBERT DREW & ASSOCIATES

DVD EDITION • SRP: \$29.95
ISBN: 978-1-68143-137-6

BLU-RAY EDITION • SRP: \$39.95
ISBN: 978-1-68143-136-9



THE NAKED ISLAND

DVD EDITION • SRP: \$29.95
ISBN: 978-1-68143-151-2

BLU-RAY EDITION • SRP: \$39.95
ISBN: 978-1-68143-150-5



EASY RIDER

DVD EDITION • SRP: \$29.95
ISBN: 978-1-68143-145-1

BLU-RAY EDITION • SRP: \$39.95
ISBN: 978-1-68143-144-4



WWW.CRITERION.COM

AVAILABLE AT

BAKER & TAYLOR
the future delivered

Visit www.baker-taylor.com/criterioncollection for the complete Criterion Collection.

Title Index

3 Still Standing	70
13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi	16
40 Love	16
45 Years	16
5th Wave, The	16
Akame Ga Kill!: Collection 1	77
Althea	75
Anomalisa	16
Autism in Love	68
Ballerina's Tale, A	18
Banshee: Season 3	50
Barbie: Spy Squad	57
Beat Street	40
Becoming Bulletproof	18
Benefactor, The	18
Big Dream	64
Big Sleep, The	40
Big Stone Gap	18
Bikes Vs. Cars	62
Black American Experience: Ben Carson	75
Black Mountain Side	18
Black Panthers, The	73
Blade Dance of the Elementalers	77
Blue Hour, The	19
Boy, The	19
Burden, The	61
Burt Bacharach: A Life in Song	79
Capitalism	69
Carol Burnett Show, The	50
Cartel Land	19
Celestial Method	77
Censored Voices	19
Charles Bradley: Live from the House of Soul	79
Chet Zar: I Like to Paint Monsters	75
Childhood's End	50
Class Dismissed	66
CodeGirl	19
Coffee, Kill Boss	20
Coming Home	20
Community: Complete Sixth Season	50
Concussion	20
Corpse Party: Tortured Souls	77
Daddy's Home	20
Daniel Tosh: People Pleaser	71
Dawn of Humanity	66
Deadpool	20
Death by Hanging	40
Dicks from Texas, The	79
Director Prepares: Bobby Roth's Masterclass	70
Dirt & Deeds in Mississippi	61
Discoveries...America National Parks: California	
Missions	74
Dogs on the Inside	66
Donovan's Brain	40
Drunk History: Season 3	50
E-Team, The	61
Edge of Seventeen	42
Eisenstein in Guanajuato	22

Advertiser Directory

3Story Films	86
Action! Library Media Service	71
Baker & Taylor Entertainment	2
BayView Entertainment	67
Bennett-Watt HD Productions	5
Breaking Glass Pictures	27
BrinkVision	49
Criterion	83
Dark Hollow Films	43
DMJ Productions	61
Dreamscape	7
Entertainment One	17, 44, 45
Film Movement	21, 23
Films Media Group	6
First Run Features	29
Green Planet Films	69
Janson Media	13
Kino Lorber Education	11
Learning ZoneXpress	69
Master Communications, Inc.	4
Midwest Tape	88
Music Box Films	41
MVD Entertainment Group	9
National Media Market (NMM)	65
NCircle Entertainment	59
Oscilloscope Pictures	37
Passion River Films	87
PBS Video	51
Strand Releasing	33
Telekan cc	63
Vision Video	15

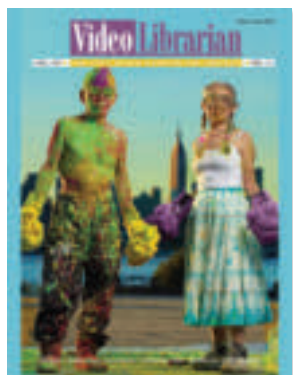
Elvis Costello—Detour	79
Embrace of the Serpent	22
Emigrants/The New Land	42
Entrepreneurship: Be Your Own Boss	70
Estranged	22
Exile Nation	62
Extraordinary Tales	22
Fall: Series 2	52
Family Farm, The	68
Fargo: Year Two	52
Fastball	22
Fate/kaleid liner Prisma Illya 2wei!	77
Fear No Fruit	22
Finding Gastón	24
Flowers	24
Forbidden Room, The	24
Frankenstein	24
Frankenstein	52
Freaks and Geeks: Complete Series	52
From Dusk Till Dawn: Season Two	52
Gallant Hours, The	42
Game of Thrones: Complete Fifth Season	53
Gaming in Color	70
Gilda	42
Girl in the Book, The	24
Girls: Complete Fourth Season	53
Globe Trekker: Mumbai City Guide	74
Grease Live!	80
Great Invisible, The	25
Greenhorn	57
Greenhouse of the Future, The	69
Growing Apart: Politics of Family Separation	64
HaNaYaMaTa: Complete Collection	77
Hard to Believe	62
Highs, Lows, and In-Betweens of Puberty	64
Home, James	25
Honky	71
Hora '79	25
House for Hermit Crab, A	57
How to Sew a Travel Wardrobe	68
How to Win at Checkers (Every Time)	25
Humans	53
I Am Thor	25
I Can Be President: A Kid's Eye View	57
I Confess	42
I Knew Her Well	43
I Smile Back	25
Immigration Battle	64
In Defense of Food	68
India's Daughter	62
Irish R.M.: Complete Collection	53
Iwo Jima: From Combat to Comrades	73
Jafar Panahi's Taxi	26
Jesus of Nazareth: Complete Miniseries	53
Joseph: Carpenter of Steel	60
Joy	26
Kid, The	43
Kill or Be Killed	26
Killing Them Safely	26
King of Herrings	26
L'Inhumaine	46
La Fille Mal Gardée	80
Lady in the Van, The	28
Land Before Time: Journey of the Brave, The	57
Last Kingdom, The	54
Legend	28
LEGO Star Wars: Droid Tales	58
Let There Be Light	43
Life Tracker	28
Like the Others	58
Lizzie Borden Chronicles, The	54
Locodol: Complete Collection	78
London Has Fallen	28
Lost in Hong Kong	28
Luther: 4	54
Maestra	73
Making of Trump, The	75
Mammon	54
Man Named Martin, Part 1: The Man	60
Manhattan: Season Two	54
Marshland	30
Mask You Live In, The	30
Meadowland	30
Men of the Cloth	68
Mercy Street	55
Miss You Already	30
Moon Book, The	58
Morgenthau	75
Mortified Nation	62
Mosè	80
My All-American	30
My Brother's Bomber	74
My Name Is Not Isabella	58
Mystery Science Theater 3000: Volume XXXV	55
Natural Life	66

Navajo Math Circles	67
Naz & Maalik	30
Nelson Algren	76
Night Will Fall	31
Nightingale, The	31
Nights with Theodore	31
Nikkatsu Diamond Guys: Volume 1	46
Noma: My Perfect Storm	31
Nutcracker, The	80
Open Season: Scared Silly	31
Paprika	46
Paris Belongs to Us	46
Passion for Justice	60
Paulette	32
Peaky Blinders: Series Two	55
Pets: Wild at Heart	69
Phoenix	32
Portrait of a Serial Monogamist	32
Pray for Death	47
Pressure Point	47
Pride and Prejudice and Zombies	32
Primary Instinct, The	32
Primeval Television	55
Princes of the Palace	76
Project Z	63
Purple Plain, The	47
Race	34
Racing Extinction	34
Rain	80
Revenant, The	34
Risen	34
Ron Taylor: Dr. Baseball	70
Room	34
Saints & Strangers	56
Secrets of Noah's Ark	60
Secundaria	71
SelectED	64
Sembene!	35
Semicolon; The Adventures of Ostomy Girl	67
Serial	47
Sex, Love & Therapy	35
Sheik, The	35
Shimmer and Shine	58
Singing Stream, A	63
Slash: Raised on the Sunset Strip	81
Son of Saul	35
Speechless	47
Spies	47
Starting with Questions	67
Steve Jobs	35
Strike Back: Cinemax Season Four	56
Sucker	36
Sugar Kisses	36
Summer of Sangaile, The	36
Swan Lake	81
Take Me to the River	36
Tamako Market: Complete Collection	78
Tannhäuser	81
Tarr Bela: I Used to Be a Filmmaker	72
Taviani Brothers Collection, The	48
Terrific	58
That's Not Us	36
These Three	48
This May Be the Last Time	72
Tiny Seed, The	58
Togetherness: Complete First Season	56
Touched with Fire	36
Trials of Jimmy Rose, The	56
Tribe, The	38
Trip, The	48
Turn It Up!	81
Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt: Season One	56
Valley of Love	38
Vampire Legend	73
Victor Frankenstein	38
Victoria	38
Vikings, The	48
Wandering Muse, The	72
War of Lies	73
Warriors from the North	74
We Come As Friends	38
We the Parents	66
Welcome to Leith	39
What Our Fathers Did: A Nazi Legacy	39
When Bette Met Mae	72
When They Cry: Complete Collection	78
White Panther	39
Wind at My Door, The	60
Winter, The	39
Witch, The	3
Wizard Barristers: Complete Collection	78
Wolf Girl & Black Prince	78
Women Aren't Funny	72
Wonders, The	39
You're Killing Me	40

Build a Better Video Collection!

Video Librarian *Plus!*

Includes *Video Librarian* Magazine Plus Online Access to 35,000 DVD/Blu-ray/Digital Reviews



Plus!



Each *Video Librarian Plus!* Subscription Includes:

- Plus!* *Video Librarian* magazine
- Plus!* 35,000 DVD/Blu-ray/digital reviews searchable by title, text, date, star rating, and more
- Plus!* Exclusive bi-weekly DVD/Blu-ray selection recommendations
- Plus!* Calendar of upcoming DVD/Blu-ray releases with linked pre-pub reviews
- Plus!* Searchable database of distributors
- Plus!* Resources and expanded newsbriefs

Over 200 critical DVD/Blu-ray/digital reviews in each bi-monthly issue

Movies • TV • Documentaries
Children's • Music • Anime

Calendar of upcoming video games
Guide to new movies based on books

Two Essential Tools
One Low Price
\$99 yr.

Patrons with Netflix subscriptions will also love *Video Librarian's* picks and pans when adding titles to their queues! Why not add a second print copy—only \$64—for them?

Also available through EBSCO's Flipster digital magazine service.

Video Librarian

www.videolibrarian.com

(800)692-2270

3435 NE Nine Boulder Dr., Poulsbo, WA 98370
Fax: 360-626-1260 • E-mail: vidlib@videolibrarian.com

Video Librarian Plus! is also available through your subscription agent.
Canadian subscribers: \$104; all other foreign subscriptions: \$121.

Kudos to Kino

I recently received a press release with welcome news for aspiring media librarians.

Art-house film distribution company Kino Lorber, Inc., has announced a collaborative venture with the Video Roundtable (VRT) of the American Library Association (ALA) to create a scholarship for future media librarians. This scholarship will be awarded once a year to a master's degree candidate in Library Science in an ALA-accredited school who intends to work professionally as a media librarian in an academic institution.

"We owe a lot to librarians," said Jeff Tamblyn, Kino Lorber's Director of Educational Sales and Distribution. "We want to help promote and further the profession, especially for those who work in cinema and media."

The scholarship will consist of two parts: a \$1,000 cash award, and a trip to New York City for the recipient to attend a film festival and spend a day learning about the distribution business from the professionals at Kino Lorber.

Brian Boling, the current chair of the

VRT, worked closely with Tamblyn and ALA's VRT liaison Danielle Alderson to craft the scholarship, recipients of which will be selected by VRT members from those who apply on the ALA website (ala.org/vrt/scholarshipform).

Kino Lorber CEO Richard Lorber says that the scholarship "aligns closely with our aim of building audiences for exceptional films." Lorber, who holds a Doctorate in Fine Arts from Columbia University, has been in the distribution business for over two decades, consistently bringing acclaimed narrative and documentary films to North America. "Having spent many years in academia before entering the film business, I'm personally most pleased to see us helping library science students pursue a path in the media," Lorber said. "I still gratefully remember the valuable assistance from those media librarians at the old Donnell Library in NYC who helped me wade through their extensive collection of 16 mm classic and experimental films I sought to screen in connection with my courses in 20th-century art. I was an art historian but knew woefully little about the history of cinema and can trace back to this guidance—in the use of film in teaching—to setting me on my current

and most satisfying path of film distribution."

The first award is slated to be given at this year's VRT mixer—sponsored by Kino Lorber's educational division, Kino Lorber EDU—at the ALA Annual Conference, which will run from June 23-28 in Orlando.

With the retirement of more and more old guard video and media librarians—and by old guard, I mean those who actually remember how to run a 16mm projector—it is vitally important that their positions be filled by inspired and knowledgeable new media librarians who are ready and eager to face the daunting challenges posed by a rapidly evolving media landscape.

Kudos to Kino Lorber and ALA for working together to create a scholarship that will help reach that goal.

The film festival junket will surely be lots of fun, although I have to say—as *Curb Your Enthusiasm's* Larry David would put it—retirement also sounds pretty, pretty, pretty good...

Randy Pitman



Class Dismissed

A Film About Learning Outside of the Classroom

"Class Dismissed shows parents a glimpse into the future of education. Everyone concerned with education would benefit by watching this film."

— John Taylor Gatto, Former New York State Teacher of the Year and Author

Frustrated with the traditional school system, a family in Los Angeles pulls their two children out of one of the highest-rated schools in the area and takes their education into their own hands. In the quest to better their children's lives, they must overcome long-standing assumptions about education and face the social ramifications of their bold decision.

Class Dismissed will challenge viewers to take a fresh look at what it means to be educated in the 21st century and offer up a radical new way of thinking about the process of learning.

Now available on DVD - \$19.99 Discounts for multiple copies.
Public screening rights also available.
More Information at www.ClassDismissedMovie.com

As Mentioned in the following publications:

Highway Video
Education Documentary

DVD SRP - \$19.99 UPC - 8 6701600010 9
Running time 90 mins. NTSC, Color, Not Rated

To order contact: jeremy@classdismissedmovie.com or visit ClassDismissedMovie.com

CELEBRATE PRIDE MONTH WITH THESE NEW LGBT RELEASES!



"As engaging, thoughtful and inspiring as its subjects"
- **The Hollywood Reporter**

"Game Face gives hope and understanding."
- **Seattle Times**

The award-winning documentary *Game Face* tells the parallel story of Fallon Fox, MMA's first transgender pro fighter, and Terrence Clemens, a young, ambitious and talented college basketball player in Oklahoma, who happens to be gay. Both realize that coming out will be necessary for their own sense of integrity and peace of mind, but the lack of a clear roadmap and the unpredictable consequences instill understandable anxiety and caution. Both Fallon and Terrence generously shed light on the struggles they deal with in their quest of finding their true selves. Jason Collins, the first openly gay NBA player, shines as a supportive mentor to Terrence.

Documentary | Sports | LGBT
95 min. | UPC: 602573008447 | SRP: \$59.95 | PPR: \$250.00
Exclusively Available for Libraries



"An indispensable addition to the filmed history of the marriage equality movement"
- **The Hollywood Reporter**

"Audiences will cheer"
- **The Huffington Post**

**Artwork Subject to Change*

The State of Marriage is the epic story of how legal legend Mary Bonauro partnered with small-town Vermont lawyers Beth Robinson and Susan Murray in a 2-decade struggle that built the foundation for the entire marriage equality movement. From winning groundbreaking LGBT legal recognition for same sex couples in 2000, to becoming the first state to enact same sex marriage through a dramatic legislative vote in 2009, the film shows in a very personal way how, as HRC national field director Marty Rouse says, "Beth, Susan and Mary really changed the course of American history."

Documentary | Gender Studies | LGBT | Family
88 min. | UPC: 888608665018 | SRP: \$59.95 | PPR: \$299.00
Exclusively Available for Libraries



Featuring Executive Producer
Edward Norton

"deeply intimate, frequently funny and ultimately inspiring."
- **Cleveland Plain Dealer**



David is about to become a father and he's terrified. How can he bring his son into manhood if he feels like he hasn't arrived himself? He tries various methods of tapping into his masculinity, but all roads lead back to the complicated relationship with his own father. *My Own Man* is a funny and original look into the timeless tug of war between fathers and sons, and a moving story about the transformative power of forgiveness.

Documentary | Gender Studies | LGBT | Family | Cultural Studies
82 min. | UPC: 602573024997 | SRP: \$59.95 | PPR: \$250.00
Exclusively Available for Libraries



"Equal parts educational, inspirational, and heartbreaking."
- **Out Front Magazine**

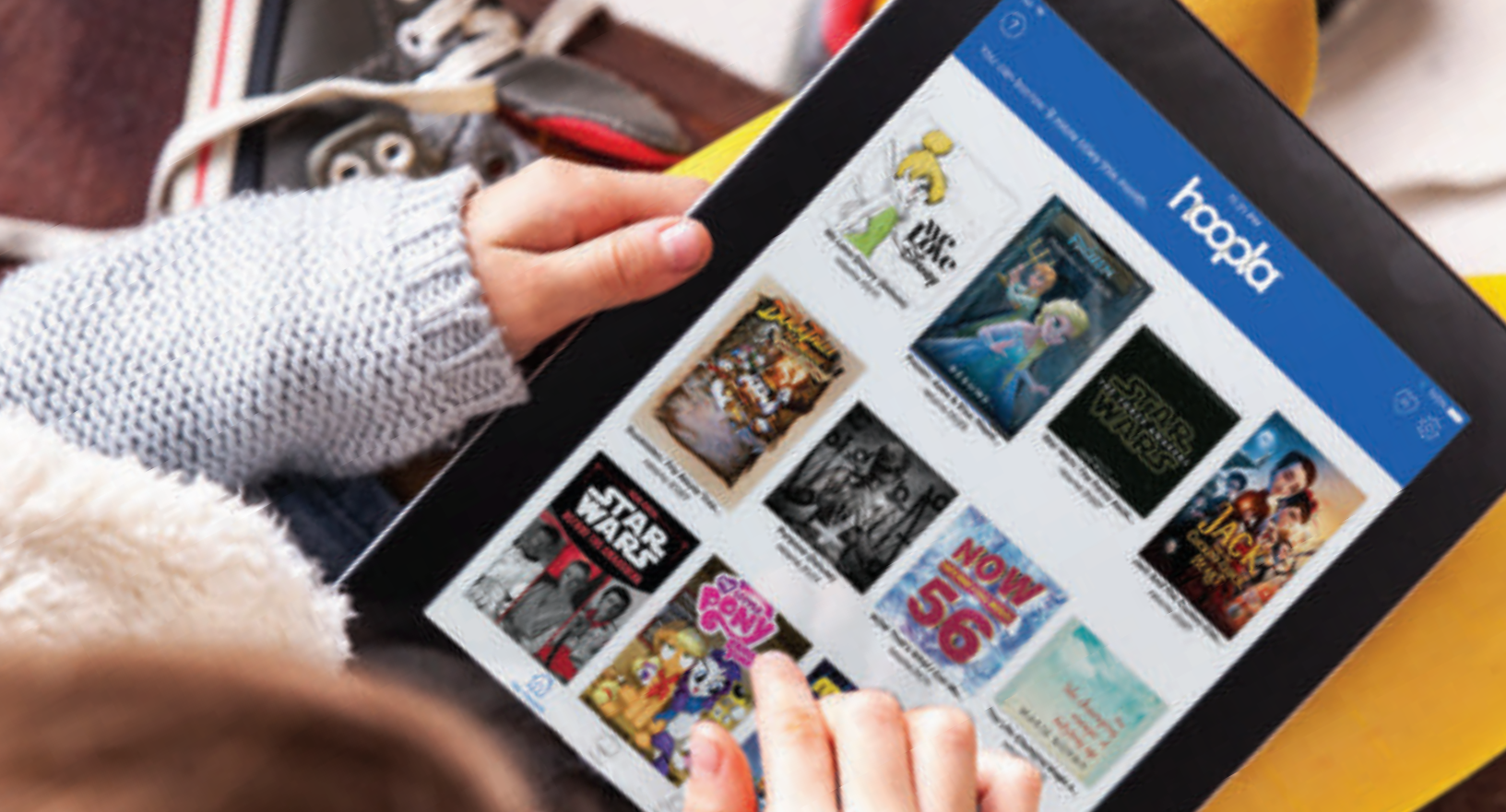
Saved by the introduction of protease inhibitors in the mid-1990s, many HIV positive men needed to rebuild the lives they thought they'd never be able to live. In an effort to reach equilibrium with the virus inside them, some migrated to Southern California's Palm Springs in the hope of finding a healing desert oasis. But is this environment, with its tolerant population and constant sunshine, enough to eradicate the grief they carry within them, and strengthen them against the medications slowly poisoning their bodies?

Documentary | LGBT | Disease | Health | Gerontology
80 min. | UPC: 602573056196 | SRP: \$59.95 | PPR: \$250.00
Exclusively Available for Libraries

Order online at edu.passionriver.com
or contact us to place an order



Email: Orders@passionriver.com
Phone: 732-321-0711



Simplifying the Future

Empowering library cardholders with more choice and flexibility, a true patron-driven experience, **hoopla digital** is making the future simple by offering libraries **over 500,000** audiobooks, eBooks, comics, video, music, and more:

- **The ability to satisfy every patron**
- **One, easy- to-use, multi-format app**
- **More content variety**
- **Over 500,000 titles and growing**

hoopla is brought to you by Midwest Tape, a groundbreaking media products and services provider to libraries for over a quarter century. Our purpose, then and now, is partnering with libraries to deliver the best content to their patrons in the most streamlined manner possible.



midwesttape.com



hoopladigital.com