

New On DVD & Blu-Ray

Veronica Mars The popular television mystery series makes the leap to the big screen in this feature financed by an ambitious Kickstarter campaign. Directed by Rob Thomas (who shares a co-screenwriting credit with Diane Ruggiero), the film follows Veronica Mars (Kristen Bell) as she returns to her hometown of Neptune, CA, to investigate a case during her ten-year high-school reunion. Warner

Perry Mason Movie Collection Volume 1 & 2 We learn in Perry Mason Returns that Perry (Raymond Burr) has been an appellate court justice in the years since he gave up his practice, and Della Street (Barbara Hale) is now the executive assistant to a manufacturing mogul (Patrick O'Neal). When he's murdered on the eve before changing his will and cutting out his entire family from his massive fortune, suspicion falls on Della Street since the murderer was outfitted in a dress and shoes exactly like those belonging to Ms. Street. The viewer is allowed to see that the murderer was actually a man dressed in women's clothes who leaves one of Ms. Street's earrings at the scene of the crime which helps implicate her. Mason resigns his judgeship and returns to defend Della from the murder charge. With the death of Mason's investigator Paul Drake, they call on his investigator son Paul Drake, Jr. (William Katt, Barbara Hale's real-life son) to do the legwork.

The Case of the Notorious Nun, A disguised killer seen by the viewer who implicates an innocent party (this time a nun) and who is later rubbed out by the unrevealed person who hired him, an embezzlement subplot which forms part of the basis for the murderer's motive, an affair taking place among the suspects one of whom is married, and Paul Drake's last minute discovery of a vital clue that cracks the mystery and allows Mason to win his case. *The Case of the Shooting Star* (a famous talk show host is shot live before an audience of forty million people, and Perry is persuaded to defend him in a seemingly unwinnable case) and *The Case of the Lost Love*, the lost love in question being a beloved woman (Jean Simmons) thirty-five years from Perry's past whose husband is accused of murdering a blackmailer who is trying to prevent her from being appointed to a highly coveted senate seat in Colorado. *The Case of the Sinister Spirit* is unquestionably the most atmospheric and suspenseful of the six films in the set and the one which contains the best constructed mystery with the most startling denouement. It involves the murder of a Stephen King-like author and takes place in a sinister hotel filled with macabre booby traps and an air of real tension. Almost as good is *The Case of the Murdered Madam* as a former brothel manager (Ann Jillian) newly married and away from the life holds a surveillance audio recording on four men planning a bank fraud. She turns up dead killed with her husband's gun and naturally he's implicated, but it's actually the four men at the meeting who are the prime suspects in the case, any of whom might be the killer. Raymond Burr and Barbara Hale may have gained a few pounds and lost a step or two in the nearly two decades since they last played the intrepid counselor and his formidable assistant, but their relationship is even warmer and more involving than in the original series, and it's always a pleasure to see them work together, even though Burr is saddled with a bothersome knee injury for several of the films and must use either a cane or crutches in most of them. William Katt's Paul Drake, Jr. is a more bumbling and scattered investigator than his efficient father was, and the producers go out of their way to give the handsome Katt a potential romantic interest in almost every one of these films (both father and son Drake seem to have had an eye for the ladies), but his skills as an investigator seem to deteriorate after a promising start. The writers have developed a frosty camaraderie between Mason and Drake that plays for comedy as much as drama as Perry must endure his young private eye's mishaps and miscalculations. This collection of six made-for-television films boasts a top-notch array of guest stars abetting the leading players. Among the most famous faces seen in these six broadcasts are Holland Taylor, Richard Anderson, Al Freeman, Jr., Patrick O'Neal, Timothy Bottoms, Jon Cypher, James McEachin (one of the surlier and more unlikable homicide lieutenants in the series), Gerald S. O'Loughlin, Tom Bosley, David Ogden Stiers (the D.A. who faces off against Perry in five of the six cases), Arthur Hill, Joe Penny, Ron Glass, Alan Thicke, Ivan Dixon, Edward Winter, Barbara Parkins, Jennifer O'Neal, Jean Simmons, Robert Mandan, Robert Walden, Stephen Elliott, Gene Barry, Robert Stack, Kim Delaney, Leigh Taylor-Young, Vincent Baggetta, Anthony Geary, Bill Macy, John Rys-Davies, and Ann Jillian. Paramount/CBS

The Dinosaur Experiment Fossil Ridge was thought to be a peaceful, secluded cattle ranch, but hidden away within the ridge is actually a breeding ground for vicious, prehistoric velociraptors. When the velociraptors escape their confines, the nearby townspeople must figure out how to fight the ferocious foes that are now hunting them down. Inception

Call Me Crazy This omnibus film contains five different stories from five different directors that each center on how mental-illness can affect people and families. Among the topics dealt with by the various segments are post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and bipolar disorder. Bryce Dallas Howard, Laura Dern, and Ashley Judd are among the women who helmed the different installments of this movie which aired originally on Lifetime. Sony

Dark Hearts When struggling artist Colson, finds his muse in sultry singer Fran, their daring romance spirals out of control into a dangerous game of deception and betrayal. Inception

Obsessed Jim Gaffigan Jim Gaffigan is back with a brand new hour long comedy special. Gaffigan's infectious style brings you to tears as he talks about everyday scenarios that you can relate to. As one of the top comedians out today, he continues to raise the bar with new material and of course, some bacon. Paramount