

New On Video & DVD

John Frankenheimer Collection: Ronin David Mamet wrote this screenplay under the name Richard Weisz, as a gun for hire, much like the masterless samurai of the film's title, who roamed Japan in the 19th Century, loyal only to themselves. A group of men with highly developed skills are called to a meeting in a deserted warehouse in Paris. Sam (Robert De Niro), an American, may be ex-CIA. Vincent (Jean Reno), the terminally cool Frenchman, is a mystery. Russian computer whiz Gregor (Stellan Skarsgaard) is presumably ex-KGB, and Spence (Sean Bean), a British demolitions man, and Larry (Skipp Suddith), another Yank, round out the team. They've been hired by the IRA, through liaison Deirdre (Natascha McElhone), to steal a briefcase of unknown contents somewhere in Europe. As the unit races from one spectacular location on the French Riviera to another, the body count mounts, some Russian gangsters get into the act, and the betrayals come fast and furious. In a rare comic moment, Sam stitches up his own bullet wound, and asks a friend to finish before he passes out. Ronin features an exceptional cast, sumptuous locations, and the kind of realistic car chases and action scenes that one expects from a director of John Frankenheimer's skills. **The Manchurian Candidate** John Frankenheimer's brilliant adaptation of Richard Condon's Cold-War satire, *The Manchurian Candidate* is the director's best film, both a coruscating thriller and a razor-sharp satire of political hysteria that captures the turbulent mood of the 1960s. Packed with sly details, such as the liberal senator "bleeding" milk when he's shot, the film demands repeated viewings. Laurence Harvey stars as Sergeant Raymond Shaw, whose U.S. army unit is captured while fighting in Korea, taken to Manchuria, and brainwashed by Chinese communists. The men return to the U.S. with no conscious memory of their experience, and Shaw is awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery. But when Captain Bennett Marco (Frank Sinatra) starts having nightmares, he begins an authorized investigation into what happened in Manchuria and eventually reveals that the sergeant's brainwashing has transformed him into an unconscious assassin who can be triggered by his communist controllers at will. Although Sinatra is slightly miscast as a tortured intellectual, Harvey and the remaining cast are excellent, as is Richard Sylbert's inventively designed "brainwashing" sequence, Lionel Lindon's extraordinary depth-of-field camerawork, and David Amram's witty, neoclassical score. **The Train** The duo of director John Frankenheimer and actor Burt Lancaster again join forces with the latter starring as French railway inspector Labiche. With Allied forces closing in on occupied Paris, Herman Goering orders Col. Franz von Waldheim (Paul Scofield) to move the priceless art from the Jeu de Paume Museum to Germany by train. The museum's curator, Mme. Villard (Suzanne Flon) tries to cajole Labiche into stopping the art train, but he's far more concerned with blowing up a German armaments train. Meanwhile, Papa Boule (Michel Simon), an aged railwayman, uses the distraction of the Allied bombing of a nearby munitions train to burn out the engines of the train carrying the art, and is killed by the Nazis for his efforts. Hotelkeeper Christine (Jeanne Moreau), has managed to persuade Labiche of the importance of the art, and when the livid Waldheim orders him to drive the treasure-bearing train, he's formulated a plan to foil the Nazi theft. He fabricates a series of interlocking ruses which lead the Germans to believe that the train has crossed into Germany, when, in reality, it's simply going in circles around Paris. Lancaster leads an exceptional cast in this engrossing film, based on a true story. **The Young Savages** The beginning of the long association between director John Frankenheimer and actor Burt Lancaster, *The Young Savages* stars the latter as Assistant D.A. Hank Bell. In the Spanish Harlem of the late 1950s, Hank is prosecuting three members of an Italian street gang who have been charged with the stabbing death of a blind Puerto Rican teenager. Although D.A. Dan Cole (Edward Andrews), eager to boost his career, has told the press that he'll seek the death penalty, Hank, a product of the same kind of slum neighborhood as both the killers and their victim, resolves to remain neutral until he's completed his investigation. His involvement is complicated both by his liberal wife Karin's (Dina Merrill) stand against capital punishment, and the fact that one of the indicted, Danny Di Pace (Stanley Kristien) is the son of his former fiancée Mary (Shelley Winters). As he patiently probes the case, Hank learns that the victim was actually the leader of a Puerto Rican street gang who was pimping his 13-year-old sister on the side. As tensions escalate on both sides, Karin is attacked by a street gang, and Hank is viciously beaten up in a subway. This solid, socially conscious, police procedural, was only the director's second feature, and he gets fine performances from Lancaster and Shelley Winters. *Fox*

Fatal Contact Chinese martial arts star Jacky Wu stars in this explosive action drama, playing a naive young man seduced into the world of underground fighting by his girlfriend, who sees an opportunity to exploit his fighting skills for money. As one opponent after another falls to his superior talents, Wu realizes his final showdown may be his last chance to take back his pride...if he survives. Ronald Cheng, Miki Yeung co-star. *Weinstein*

Hunting Party On the fifth anniversary of the end of the civil war in Bosnia, former hot-shot reporter Simon Hunt (Richard Gere) mysteriously shows up, five years after imploding on live television and disappearing into a self-imposed exile. Reunited with his cameraman, Duck (Terrence Howard), who has been promoted to a cushy studio gig working with anchorman Franklin Harris (James Brolin), Simon convinces Duck to go on a dangerous journey to get an interview with the wanted war criminal known as the Fox (Ljubomir Kerekes), based on the real-life Radovan Karadzic. They are joined by Ben (Jesse Eisenberg), the Harvard-educated nephew of a network executive who is in search of adventure and a good story. Together the three drive deep into Serb territory, facing more intrigue and danger than they ever could have imagined. *Genius*

An Affair to Remember In this legendary tearjerker, the world's most eligible bachelor (Cary Grant) is set to marry an heiress. But unfortunately for his bride-to-be, while he's traveling alone on a luxury liner he meets Terry McKay (Deborah Kerr) and realizes he's engaged to the wrong woman--and she's engaged to the wrong man. They finally agree to spend six months apart; if they still love each other at the end of that time, they will reunite at the top of the Empire State Building. But the path of true love does not always run smooth, and tragedy threatens to tear the couple apart. Leo McCarey directed both the original (*Love Affair*) and this remake, and viewers often amiably battle over which film is the more touching. This much-loved film features the Academy Award-nominated title song and a splendid supporting cast. *Fox*

Saving Sarah Cain After learning that her Amish sister has died, Portland journalist Sarah Cain unexpectedly becomes the guardian of five children. Bringing her nieces and nephews to her apartment, Sarah soon realizes that the kids may never adjust to big-city life, forcing her to wonder if they're better off with her or back in the only home they've ever known. Lisa Pepper, Abigail Mason, Elliott Gould, and Tess Harper star in this poignant drama. *Fox*

California Dreaming A family is beset with numerous problems as they travel to California from their suburban home in Omaha in this comedy feature. The mishaps happen at a fast and furious pace as soon as the bumbling family members board their RV, creating some highly amusing moments in the vein of the National Lampoon movies. *MTI*

Joshua Brad (Sam Rockwell) and Abby Cairn (Vera Farmiga) seem to have it all. A successful Manhattan couple living in a plush uptown apartment, they have just welcomed their second child into the family--a lovely little girl named Lily. Everything should be golden for the happy family, but their little boy--the nine-year-old Joshua (Jacob Kogan)--is less than pleased with the latest addition to the family. An intelligent but odd little boy, Joshua's lack of humor and preoccupation with death belie his tender age, and as the parents coo over Lily, it becomes clear that they are not quite sure what to make of their stone-faced son. When Lily suddenly turns from a quiet baby into one who mysteriously begins wailing day and night, the Cairns' ordered life quickly disintegrates. The lack of sleep and stress takes a heavy toll on the mentally fragile Abby, and Brad begins racing around the city trying to care for his newborn daughter, ailing wife, and emotionally disturbed son. The family stress mounts, and when small animals and the family dog turn up dead, it doesn't take long before fingers begin pointing at the brooding and bizarre Joshua. Vera Farmiga delivers a realistic and disturbing performance as someone tottering at the edge of emotional collapse, and Sam Rockwell is a true pleasure to watch in his turn as a father desperately trying to hold his life together. Using a slow, teasing pace and claustrophobic camera angles, the film strives for a Hitchcockian level of suspense while also delivering many topnotch performances. *Fox*

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Criss Angel Mindfreak: Season 3 Providing a refreshing twist on the conventions of reality TV, Criss Angel Mindfreak is an A&E show full of jaw-dropping surprises. Cameras follow Angel as he trains and then executes a series of amazing tricks, most of which leave bystanders and viewers at home scratching their heads in bemused wonder. Whether floating high above the Luxor casino's pyramid or escaping from jail in the nude, Criss seems to defy human logic--and he makes it clear that no camera trickery is involved in these feats. In the 20 episodes contained on this collection Criss demonstrates how the body and the mind are a lot more flexible than we might think, and provides some highly entertaining moments that easily achieve his goal of dragging magic out of the Dark Ages and into the 21st century. Five-time Magician of the Year Criss Angel returns for a third season of the show that has the extreme illusionist defying death in nearly every episode. From escaping a racing truck filled with explosives to being steamrolled on a bed of glass, levitating 500 feet above Las Vegas's Luxor Hotel & Casino and more, Angel takes magic to new levels, entertaining a slew of celebrities (including Jamie Kennedy and Flavor Flav) along the way. Disc 1 includes the following episodes: "Luxor Light," "Steamroller," "Prisoner Transport Escape," "Screwed," "Motorhead," "Animal 2" and "Quad Drag Escape." Disc 2 includes the following episodes: "Raging Bull," "Car Crash Escape," "Sucker 2," "Drowned," "Naked Jail Escape," "Burning Man" and "Rollercoaster Thru Criss." Disc 3 includes the following episodes: "Underwater Car Escape," "The Loyal," "Mentalism," "The Kid in Criss," "Cement Block" and "Seance." *A&E*

Route 66 Volume 2 is a classic American TV series that only gets better with time. The first season alone boasts appearances by Lee Marvin, Leslie Nielsen, and E.G. Marshal as well as tough, thought provoking storylines penned by Academy Award-winner Sterling Silliphant. The series follows the experiences of the poor boy/rich boy duo of Buzz and Todd as they hit the road in the 1960s' spirit of self-discovery. While everyone can whistle the Nelson Riddle tune about "getting their kicks," this show has much more to offer than trivial pop-culture references. *Infinity Entertainment Group*

Gabrielle Reece Fit Healthy Prenatal Workouts Gabrielle Reece has wowed fans on the volleyball court with her intense moves and flawless physique. In this exercise program aimed at expectant mothers, Gabrielle shares her custom secrets on staying fit during the first two trimesters of pregnancy. From stretching to strength training, this collection of six 15-minute workouts offers plenty of versatility for looking good and feeling good. *Starz/Anchor Bay*

Barney Celebrating Around the World The ever-cheerful purple dinosaur takes his friends on a journey around the world as they join in the fun of celebrations across the globe. At each stop, Barney and his buddies learn about the people and their cultures. They also explore each country's music and dance, along with the occasions they celebrate. Stops along the way include Brazil, Kenya, India, Japan and Ireland. The bonus Barney episode "Fifi and the Flowerpots" is also included. *Hit Entertainment*

Springtime Fun Join Barney, Bob the Builder, Thomas & Friends, Angelina Ballerina, Kipper and Fireman Sam for loads of springtime fun in this six-episode collection that includes "Percy and the Magic Carpet," "Arthur and the Butterfly" and "Bob's Big Surprise." Follow the adventures as Angelina Ballerina searches for her lost pet; Fireman Sam saves a girl trapped by rising waters; Bob the Builder surprises a friend with a new garden; and more. *Hit Entertainment*

Pingu On Thin Ice Getting himself in trouble is nothing new for mischievous penguin Pingu as he returns for another series of hilarious adventures in this cartoon collection. Life at the South Pole has never been so fun! Episodes in this snowy set include "Pranks," "Pingu and the Snowball," "Pingu and Pinga Go Camping," "Stinky Pingu," "Pingu's Bouncy Fun," "Pingu's Balancing Act" and "Pinga Has Hiccups." *Hit Entertainment*

Road To Rio/Road To Bali This release presents a double feature of musical comedies pairing funnyman Bob Hope and crooner Bing Crosby: Road to Rio In their fifth "road" comedy, Bob Hope and Bing Crosby are framed for starting a fire and hop a boat to Rio de Janeiro. Naturally, they meet Dorothy Lamour there and must rescue her from her evil aunt (Gale Sondergaard, the queen of movie evil aunts). Bing serenades Dorothy with "But Beautiful," and even the Andrews Sisters show up to croon a tune. This was the last "road" picture until Road to Bali in 1952. Road to Bali the sixth and final Road movie (and the only one in color) that Bing Crosby and Bob Hope made for Paramount finds the boys acting as scuba divers in the South Pacific. It's not long before the pair winds up on a tropical island with -- who else? -- Dorothy Lamour, a princess with treasure troubles. Jimmy Van Heusen and Johnny Burke once again write the songs. Watch for the cameo from Carolyn Jones (of "Adams Family" fame). *BCI/Brentwood*

The Chinese Godfather/Duel of Karate Leave the gun, take the chop suey, and let "The Chinese Godfather" make you an offer you can't refuse. The action comes thick and fast in this outrageous martial arts thriller, as two brothers attempt to carry out the last wishes of a dying thief. (also known as The Chivalrous Knight), which is dedicated to the memory of Bruce Lee, who died during filming. Wai-Man Chan, Lei Cheng, and Betty Ting Pei star. Next, twin infant offspring of a martial arts master go their separate ways and, in one of fate's cruel gestures, are brought together years later for a "Duel of Karate." Peng Tien, Yuen Yi star. *BCI/Brentwood*

All Star Family Feud The original Family Feud, hosted by Richard Dawson, was an entertaining game show that had rival families competing for prizes as they were quizzed on the results of surveys that were given to the general public. This all-star twist on the game finds cast members from popular TV shows taking the place of the families, with famous faces from The Love Boat, The Brady Bunch, Gilligan's Island, and Dallas all appearing. *BCI/Brentwood*

Feast of Love Bradley (Greg Kinnear) believes in the power and beauty of true love. He's good at falling in love--just with the wrong women. He's hoping that his relationship with sophisticated Diana (Radha Mitchell) will have a happier ending than his first marriage to Kathryn (Selma Blair). Bradley's friend Harry (Morgan Freeman) is happily married to Esther (Jane Alexander), but they are dealing with the loss of a different kind of love. At the same time, Oscar (Toby Hemingway) and Chloe (Alexa Davalos) are busy falling in love at first sight and starting their life together, even though the odds are against them. In this film, no relationship stone is left unturned, and no relationship is judged. Instead, love in various stages of growth, dissolution, and transformation is explored. From love at first sight to divorce and death, to long-term relationships and affairs, multiple facets of love are seen as what they are: simply a fact of life. Freeman's character, a professor on sabbatical, serves as an elder statesman of sorts, wise enough to notice nuances in relationships the other characters miss. Kinnear is endearing as Bradley, who simply wants to love and be loved. Davalos is someone to watch--she lights up the screen, and Alexander commands every frame in which she appears. *MGM*

Between The Lions Season One This collection presents the complete first season of this educational show aimed at children who are just beginning to learn how to read. Viewers will join those literate lions in their amazing library filled with books that sing, dance, and fly around their fantastic reading room where picking up a book is an invitation to adventure. Lovable characters and routines that children can sing-along to make this one educational show that will help them discover just how much fun reading can be. *WGBH Boston*

The Wheels On The Bus Both educational and fun, The Wheels On The Bus series is clever mixture of animation and puppetry featuring the voice talent of Roger Daltrey. In this episode, the bus is on the way to the Big Dog Parade, but along the way it's going to make stops at the Jungle Bug Adventure, Joes's Garage, and an enchanted forest. Porchlight *Home Entertainment*

Citizen Tanouye This award-winning documentary was made by high-school students who wanted to know more about one of their alums, Sergeant Ted Tanouye, a man of Japanese heritage who joined the U.S. Army to fight in World War II. Because of their ethnic background, Tanouye's family was imprisoned in an internment camp while he was abroad, valiantly fighting along with the rest of America's soldiers. Citizen Tanouye tells his story as well as the academic journey of these high school students who uncovered the history of the era and arrived at some fascinating revelations about their own lives and identities. *WGBH Boston*

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Curb Your Enthusiasm Seasons 1-6 Season 1 You thought your life was bad. Try being an incomprehensibly successful writer with a gorgeous wife. Unfortunately for Larry David, co-creator of Seinfeld, four hundred million dollars and the woman of his dreams (Cheryl Hines) are no match for the constant turmoils that wreak havoc on his daily life. With the help of his manager Jeff (Jeff Garlin) and best friend Richard Lewis (Lewis, playing himself), Larry tries to maintain some semblance of order, but when trouble seems to find you everywhere, that isn't so easy. Curb Your Enthusiasm is, quite simply, television at its finest, a brilliant and hysterical work of comic genius that absurdly, yet seamlessly, blends reality with fiction. **Season 2** Everyone's favorite miserable millionaire is back for another season of unparalleled hilarity. This year, in addition to buying and settling into a new house, Larry manages to send Shaquille O'Neal to the hospital, offend a fellow Jewish neighbor, aggravate a professional wrestler, give an unwanted haircut to a doll, and much, much more. Once again, Larry David has assembled a brilliant supporting cast--Cheryl Hines, Jeff Garlin, Wanda Sykes, Richard Lewis, Susie Essman--to realize his vision of a world that is comprised of one unfortunate misunderstanding after another. **Season 3** The error-strewn world of former Seinfeld creator Larry David returns in this third helping of Curb Your Enthusiasm episodes. No one puts their foot in it quite like David, with his successful life as a multimillionaire comic constantly tarnished by mishaps and gaffes. Cheryl Hines returns as Larry's long-suffering wife, as does his manager Jeff Garlin, and best friend Richard Lewis. Some of the insurmountable obstacles careering unstopably towards David include a mentally unbalanced nanny, an Alanis Morissette concert, Martin Scorsese, and, perhaps the highlight of the show, the rapper Krazee-Eyez Killa. Illustrating that no amount of success can prevent real life from crashing the party, Larry David's innovative show continues to go from strength to strength. **Season 4** Larry David's post-Seinfeld career continues apace with the fourth season of Curb Your Enthusiasm. The concept for the show--which sees David playing himself as he attempts to undertake various creative projects, while frequently landing in hugely entertaining trouble wherever he turns--was highly original when Curb first aired. But by the time the Fourth Season aired, imitators were waiting in the wings, as celebrities such as Kirsty Alley (Fat Actress) and Lisa Kudrow (The Comeback) honed their own, similar shows. Undeterred, David manages to breath new life into the formula, even producing one of the best episodes yet in "The Car Pool Lane." Incredibly, this episode, which saw the beleaguered star attending a Dodgers game with a prostitute so he could travel in the car-pool lane, ended up overlapping with a real-life court case. The Curb team caught a murder suspect, Juan Catalan, on camera during the game, with their footage eventually proving his innocence in the case. One of the main themes of the show involves David's attempts to avoid tension at all costs while unwittingly landing himself in it, making the incident enjoyably ironic. Further adventures see our hapless hero attempting to buy medicinal marijuana and attending Ben Stiller's birthday, while his long-suffering wife Cheryl Hines and manager Jeff Garlin reach new levels of exasperation at David's behavior. This Season is tied together by a long-running plot which sees David preparing for a role in a Broadway production of The Producers, with the final episode shot on opening-night in New York City. Providing a deliciously funny climax to David's fourth series of adventures, fans of the show will no doubt be delighted to know that nothing goes according to plan. **Season 5** Life continues to befuddle hapless millionaire (and Seinfeld producer) Larry David in this fifth season of shows. As usual, Larry is joined by his faithful, beleaguered wife, Cheryl (Cheryl Hines), and his manager, Jeff (Jeff Garlin), while regular guests such as Ted Danson, Wanda Sykes, and Richard Lewis are on hand to add to the mayhem. The fun begins with Larry wondering whether he's adopted after his father seems to suggest that he might be, leading to a long-standing subplot that runs through the entire season. But as Larry tries to figure out his past, the present throws innumerable curveballs in his direction, with gay rights activists unhappy with him, a sandwich that bears his name not being quite to his taste, and a Seder set up by Cheryl ending in disaster. While season five will present comfortable and familiar viewing for those already familiar with Larry's antics, there are a few surprises in store, especially as the final episode careens towards an unexpected ending. **Season 6** Despite Larry David's deathbed posture at the end of Season 5 (in an episode forebodingly titled "The End"), the cranky producer is back for another season of this cinema verité-style comedy. Also back are Jeff Garlin as Larry's bearish manager and Cheryl Hines as his far-too-indulgent wife -- both of whom continue to suffer (and suffer along with) Larry as he stumbles through life, stepping on plenty of toes along the way. *HBO/Warner*

The Comebacks A satire in the vein of Epic Movie and Date Movie, The Comebacks, directed by Tom Brady (The Hot Chick), tackles the conventions of the inspirational sports movie with jock-like gusto. Led by washed-up coach Lambeau Fields (David Koechner), the losers of the title attempt to become a winning football team, while referencing a dizzying array of athletic-oriented films from Hollywood history, ranging from Rocky to Radio--the latter shamelessly parodied by a hapless, mentally challenged character named iPod (Jermaine Williams). Gleefully goofy in its send-ups of sports movies, The Comebacks revels in broad slapstick humor that perfectly suits Koechner, who is perhaps best known as the obnoxious Todd Packer on the TV series The Office. (Koechner's fellow Office mate Melora Hardin is also present, though the show's downbeat, quirky humor is notably M.I.A.) Other actors in the mostly unknown cast include real-life former football star Carl Weathers (the Rocky films and, of course, Action Jackson) and Matthew Lawrence, the brother of Joey Lawrence, who plays a quarterback with distinctly non-macho tendencies. Boasting comedic moments as subtle as the school bus that plows into a character during one scene, The Comebacks doesn't pretend to be sophisticated--it happily indulges in its lowbrow status, making for an enjoyably guilty pleasure. *Fox*

El Cid Charlton Heston essays the title role as the famed warrior who led his men in driving the Moors out of medieval Spain. After being accused of treason, the disgraced Castilian knight Rodrigo Diaz would come to be known as El Cid as he struggled to keep his country together in order to fight the North African invaders. Lavish in detail and mammoth in scope, director Anthony Mann's epic tale also stars Sophia Loren, Raf Vallone, Herbert Lom. *Weinstein/Genius*

Lake Placid 2 It's four times the terror in this Sci-Fi Channel-produced sequel that finds a local sheriff, a Department of Fish and Wildlife agent, an Environmental Protection Agency worker, and a big-game hunter teaming up to protect a small Maine community from a quartet of deadly prehistoric crocodiles. John Schneider, Cloris Leachman, Sam McMurray star. *Fox*

Moving McAllister Four days before the bar exam, ambitious legal intern Rick Robinson (Ben Gourley) makes a promise to his boss, McAllister (Rutger Hauer), and finds himself on a cross-country road trip from hell with McAllister's niece (Mila Kunis) and her pet pig in this comedy. En route from Miami to L.A., Robinson is set off course by hitchhikers, breakdowns and even love on a journey that proves that there's more to life than making it to the exam on time. *Magnolia*

Death at a Funeral finds a well-to-do British family attempting to bury their patriarch amidst a backdrop of secrets, revelations, rivalries, and illicit pharmaceuticals. While the dutiful Daniel (Matthew MacFadyen) stoically contends with major roadblocks in planning his father's funeral, including being presented with the wrong body, others connected with the family have catastrophes of their own, including the anxious Simon (Alan Tudyk), who is engaged to Martha (Daisy Donovan), and mistakenly takes a hallucinogen to calm his nerves. Lurking in the background is a mysterious stranger (Peter Dinklage) who threatens to send the chaotic proceedings over the brink. A charming mix of high- and lowbrow humor, Death At A Funeral is a lively farce that makes the most of its hijinks-filled script and topnotch cast. *Fox*

An Unsuitable Job For A Woman Series 1 & 2 Mobil Masterpiece Theatre and Mystery! present this British miniseries based on P.D. James's Cordelia Gray character, a woman who inherits a private detective agency and decides to run it herself. The fetching Helen Baxendale stars as Ms. Gray, and takes on a number of mysterious cases, including an apparent suicide that leads her to a much bigger crime, and a husband's alleged infidelities. Contains the entire series in a collector's box. *WGBH Boston*