

New On Video & DVD

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix The fifth chapter in the beloved book series, everyone's favorite wizard-in-training (Daniel Radcliffe) finds himself in increasingly perilous situations. Not only is Harry in trouble with the Ministry of Magic for using his abilities outside of school, his trusted mentor, Professor Dumbledore (Michael Gambon), has grown distant, and an icy new Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher, Dolores Umbridge (Imelda Staunton), has arrived to bring a frightening level of discipline to Hogwarts. And waiting in the shadows is the demonic Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes), an ominous figure whose very existence is questioned by the powerful Ministry, leaving Harry and his friends--most notably Ron (Rupert Grint) and Hermione (Emma Watson)--to form a rebel group, Dumbledore's Army. Helmed by little-known British director David Yates and written by Michael Goldenberg (the first scribe to fill the boots of Steve Kloves), *The Order Of The Phoenix* continues the darker tone of the two preceding Potter installments and deftly follows Harry, Ron, and Hermione as they face new foes and impending adulthood. While Radcliffe, Grint, and Watson all continue to imbue their characters with vitality and complexity, Staunton steals the show as the strict, merciless Umbridge, though the story, which lacks some of the special-effects-heavy set pieces of past chapters, happily leaves room for other actors to shine, most notably Alan Rickman (as the ever-enigmatic Severus Snape), Gary Oldman (Sirius Black), David Thewlis (Remus Lupin), and Helena Bonham Carter (Bellatrix Lestrange). Another fine offering of Potter movie magic, *Phoenix* may not astound quite the way that *The Prisoner Of Azkaban* did, but it easily stands as one of the best films in the series. *Warner*

The Simpsons Movie may not qualify for the honor of "Best. Movie. Ever," but even the harshest critics like Comic Book Guy will find little to dislike in this hilarious comedy. Springing from Fox's hit series, the movie expands the adventures of the Springfield residents into a feature-length film. Here Homer's selfish antics (and a hankering for free donuts) are responsible for a horrific ecological disaster that could spell the end for Springfield. So it's up to the paunchy patriarch to save his family and the town from the mess that he has created. Just as in the Emmy-winning show, *The Simpsons Movie* skillfully combines smart satire with inspired silliness. Dan Castellana, Harry Shearer, Hank Azaria, and other regulars of the series provide laughs with their vocal talents, while Albert Brooks is hilarious as the film's villain. Though *The Simpsons Movie* is best seen after a lifetime of watching reruns of the show and repeating its endlessly quotable lines, viewers don't have to be die-hard fans to get the jokes. Screenwriters Matt Groening, James L. Brooks, and Co. are at the top of their game here, channeling the show at its best. The film comes after 18 seasons of the series, but it's certainly more in the spirit (and quality) of the show's best years. *Fox*

Dave Attell Captain Miserable In this long-awaited HBO special from Dave Attell, host of Comedy Central's much-missed *Insomniac*, the veteran comedian offers his wry observations on the wild world we inhabit and the even stranger lives we lead. Unwavering in his material, and gleefully willing to offend, Attell hashes over current events in Iraq, the finer points of Jagermeister, and some of his own demented fantasies. Able to go from reasonable to raunchy in a heartbeat, Attell spins comic gold from the most unlikely sources. Filmed live in Washington D.C. *HBO*

Once The Irish romance *Once* may be a musical, but it is miles away from the traditional Hollywood idea of people bursting into song. Glen Hansard (frontman for indie rock band The Frames) plays the guy, a street musician who is playing for change when he meets the girl (Marketa Irglova), an immigrant from the Czech Republic. The pair immediately bond over their shared love of music (he is a guitarist, and she plays the piano), and the film chronicles their tentative relationship. Both are weighed down by plenty of baggage: his songs are fueled by a painful breakup, and she is a young mother who left her husband behind in her native country. Like the independent favorite *Before Sunrise*, *Once* is a simple, sweet drama that doesn't rely on an elaborate plot. With its use of digital video and handheld cameras, *Once* matches its spare visual style to its intimate mood. Each moment feels stolen from real life, and the story is at once familiar and fresh. Driven more by music than by dialogue, *Once* features a stirring soundtrack of heartfelt indie rock sung by Hansard and Irglova. *Fox*

The Last Legion is a reason to rejoice for action fans who prefer their battle scenes to be composed of flesh and blood rather than megabytes. Based on the novel by Valerio Manfredi, this is a sword-and-sandal epic that deftly weaves a tale of the fall of the Roman Empire with myth and magic, giving us plenty of swordplay and liberal doses of knowingly corny humor. In Rome of 476 A.D., 12-year-old Romulus Augustus (Thomas Sangster) is to be crowned emperor at the same time that barbarian king Odoacer (Peter Mullan) arrives with his fierce warriors--led by brutish Wulfila (Kevin McKidd)--to slaughter everyone in sight. With his family dead, young Romulus is captured and taken, along with his teacher--the wise mystic Ambrosinus (Ben Kingsley)--to the island of Capri. Learning that the Byzantine Empire has offered a safe haven for Romulus, surviving Roman soldier Aurelius (Colin Firth) teams up with fierce female warrior Mira (Aishwarya Rai) and sets out to retrieve the boy. Deceit on the part of the Byzantines, however, necessitates that Aurelius change direction for Britannia, home of the last safe outpost for Romans. In an era where every thrill-ride film strives to be louder, bloodier, and more boundary-stretching than the next, *THE LAST LEGION* shows a charming, family-friendly restraint. The cast, led by two veteran English actors (Kingsley and Firth, the good guys), two fine Scottish actors (Mullan and McKidd, the baddies), and a Bollywood superstar (Rai, grand in her action sequence), is clearly having a blast. With rousing, elaborate (and bloodless) battle scenes, liberal humor, and a neat twist at its conclusion. *Genius*

Grayson Arms Jennifer Carpenter stars in this creepy tale about a woman who is accused of killing the tenants in a building she has just acquired. The residents of the Grayson Arms are all enjoying the benefits of their rent-controlled apartments until they die in increasingly inventive ways, but is the unscrupulous landlady really responsible? Plenty of bloodletting occurs as the answer is slowly revealed. *MTI*

Paradise Texas When Hollywood actor Mack Cameron (Timothy Bottoms) gets a role in a small independent film being shot in his hometown, his life, marriage, and personal frustrations are suddenly put into perspective. But unless he forces himself to reevaluate where it all went wrong, he might end up destroying not only his own life, but that of the innocent and talented kid who is cast opposite him. *Paradise Texas* is a story about the choices people make and how relationships can either save them or push them even further over the edge. *Monarch*

Erik The Viking Tim Robbins stars as Erik the Viking, a thoughtful man in a violent time who does not enjoy killing and raping like the rest of his people. When he accidentally kills a woman while defending her, he reevaluates his life and goes off in search of the Horn Resounding, which has the power to bring him to his true home--and end the Age of Ragnarok, bringing peace to the kingdom. To get there he has to lead a pathetic group of seasick sailors through the Gates of the World and into sunlight, on their way to Valhalla. But all threatens to come undone when the local blacksmith plots to sabotage the journey to protect his lucrative weapons business. The film includes wonderfully unexpected turns from Mickey Rooney and Eartha Kitt and an especially funny performance by John Cleese as a torturing warlord who enjoys having men killed in myriad creative ways. *Fox*

New York, New York Martin Scorsese's *New York, New York* is a sparkling, nostalgic look at the big-band era of the 1940s, as well as the MGM musicals of the 1940s and 1950s. The story concerns Jimmy Doyle (Robert De Niro), an aspiring saxophonist who meets and is at first rejected by singer Francine Evans (Liza Minelli). When they continue to bump into each other, a friendship blossoms, followed by romance, and then marriage. All the while, both musicians struggle to succeed at their craft, which begins to put an unbearable strain on their relationship. Eventually, this weight becomes too heavy to handle, leading the couple into a traumatic separation. Scorsese's obvious love for this era of music--as well as cinema--is overflowing throughout the picture, from the set pieces to the costumes to the musical numbers. Most striking is the brutally realistic depiction of a disintegrating marriage, filmed in a series of long, tense takes. De Niro and Minelli jump headlong into their characters, which results in a film that is a challenging viewing experience but emotionally rewarding to the dedicated viewer. As usual, Scorsese's meticulous visual presentation is flawless, as is the film's soundtrack, which recaptures the big-band era with reverence and passion. *Fox*

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The Wire Season 4 Examining each link in the drug "food chain," this innovative HBO drama set in the thick of inner-city Baltimore includes everyone from junkies and dealers to cops and politicians. While the third season focused on the investigation of drug kingpin Avon Barksdale (Wood Harris), the show expands to tackle the urban education system's role in fueling the proliferation of drugs. Among the ensemble cast are Dominic West and Frankie Faison. Disc 1 includes the following episodes: "Boys of Summer," "Soft Eyes" and "Home Rooms." Additional Actors: Jamie Hector, Ryan Sands, Gbenga Akinnagbe, Hassan Johnson, Delaney Williams, Michael Willis, Ramon Rodriguez. Disc 2 includes the following episodes: "Refugees," "Alliances," "Margin of Error" and "Unto Others." Additional Actors: Boris McGiver, Rick Otto, Frederick Strother, Brian Anthony Wilson, Robert Wisdom, Tony Ruggieri, Deirdre Lovejoy, Domenick Lombardozzi, Jonnie Brown. Disc 3 includes the following episodes: "Corner Boys," "Know Your Place," "Misgivings" and "A New Day." Additional Actors: Cyrus Farmer, Aidan Gillen, Clarke Peters, Tray Chaney, Amber Nelson, Corey Parker Robinson, Ramon Rodriguez, J.D. Williams, Michael K. Williams, Franklin Ojeda Smith, Callie Thorne. Disc 4 includes the following episodes: "That's Got His Own" and "Final Grades." Additional Actors: Neal Huff, Gbenga Akinnagbe, Jamie Hector, Ramon Rodriguez, Delaney Williams, J.D. Williams. *HBO*

The Shawn Michaels Story Heartbreak & Triumph Part of the wrestling game for more than two decades, Shawn Michaels -- a three-time World Wrestling Entertainment champion -- has lived through success and controversy, along with a debilitating back injury. This video biography chronicles his life story inside and outside the ring, and features some of his most memorable matches, including bruising battles against Triple H, Kurt Angle and John Cena. Disc 1 includes a biography of Shawn, promos, deleted scenes and stories from his past. Disc 2 includes the following matches: Shawn Michaels vs. Billy Jack Haynes (1/11/85), The Midnight Rockers vs. Buddy Rose & Doug Somers (2/10/87), The Midnight Rockers vs. Super Ninja & Ninjo Go (6/12/87), The Rockers vs. The Brainbusters (1/23/89), The Rockers vs. The Hart Foundation (10/90), The Rockers vs. Orient Express (1/19/91), Shawn Michaels vs. The British Bulldog (11/8/92) and Shawn Michaels in the Royal Rumble (1/22/95). Disc 3 includes the following matches: Shawn Michaels vs. Jeff Jarrett (7/23/95), Shawn Michaels vs. The British Bulldog (6/23/96), Shawn Michaels vs. Triple H (12/29/03), The Rockers vs. La Resistance (3/14/05), Shawn Michaels vs. Kurt Angle (6/26/05) and Shawn Michaels vs. John Cena (4/23/07). *Genius*

Royal Rumble The Complete Anthology Volume 1 - 1988-1992 Celebrating 20 years of World Wrestling Entertainment's Royal Rumble, this anniversary anthology includes every match from 1988 to 2007. From the first champ (Jim Duggan in 1988) to victories by Hulk Hogan, Vince McMahon, "Stone Cold" Steve Austin and The Rock, the collection features WWE superstars in the ultimate elimination showdown as 30 world-class wrestlers square off in the winner-take-all event. It was interesting to see how far they have come along with the event. *Genius*

Royal Rumble The Complete Anthology Volume 2 - 1993- 1997 Celebrating 20 years of World Wrestling Entertainment's Royal Rumble, this anniversary anthology includes every match from 1988 to 2007. From the first champ (Jim Duggan in 1988) to victories by Hulk Hogan, Vince McMahon, "Stone Cold" Steve Austin and The Rock, the collection features WWE superstars in the ultimate elimination showdown as 30 world-class wrestlers square off in the winner-take-all event. *Genius*

Teen Titans 4th Season Angst-riddled adolescent clan the Teen Titans are back for a fourth exciting season, coping with the challenges of being a superhero teen while taking on the world's most devious archvillains. When the evil Trigon emerges to take down the Titans, Robin, Starfire, Cyborg, Beast Boy and Raven push the limits of their superpowers and explore the strength of their friendships. Includes the following episodes: "257-494," "Cyborg The Barbarian," "Birthmark," "The Quest," "Employee of the Month," "Trog" and "The Prophecy." Additional Actors: Greg Cipes, Dee Bradley Baker, Rob Paulsen, Kevin Michael Richardson, Ron Perlman, Rodger Bumpass, Michael Clarke Duncan, Kimberly Brooks, Stephen Root, Virginia Madsen. Disc 2 includes the following episodes: "Stranded," "Overdrive," "Mother Mae-Eye," "The End (Part 1)," "The End (Part 2)" and "The End (Part 3)." Additional Actors: Dee Bradley Baker, Jason Marsden, Greg Cipes, Lauren Tom, Billie Hayes, Kevin Michael Richardson, Ron Perlman. *Warner*

The Bronx is Burning World Championship Limited Edition Set against the backdrop of a 1977 New York City in turmoil, this epic eight-hour miniseries recounts the New York Yankees' fight to win the World Series for the first time in 15 years. Based on the bestselling book by Jonathan Mahler, the film follows the very public rivalries among the Yankee's tempestuous manager, Billy Martin (John Turturro); self-absorbed star, Reggie Jackson (Daniel Sunjata); and meddlesome owner, George Steinbrenner (Oliver Platt), who has promised the city a World Series win. Amid fiscal crises, the "Son of Sam" killings, and a city blackout that leads to widespread looting, the Yankees represent a beacon of hope. As these stories merge, the series forms a portrait of a city, and a team, destined for a comeback. Bonus Material The bonus material for this gripping baseball miniseries includes several featurettes, outtakes, deleted and extended scenes, as well as interviews with Reggie Jackson, George Steinbrenner, Billy Martin Jr. and John Turturro. *Genius*

Robin-B-Hood Martial arts star Jackie Chan plays a negative character for the first time in this film that casts him as a compulsive gambler caught up in a kidnapping scheme. It turns out, however, that Fong (Chan) does have a heart, and when he's left tending the tot, a strong bond develops. Now, he just has to fend off the baddies, protect the child and try to stay out of jail in this deftly choreographed action comedy from Benny Chan. *Genius*

High School Phenoms Top of the Class Before roundballers Kevin Garnett, Kobe Bryant and Carlos Boozer became superstars in the National Basketball Association, they dominated high school hardwoods from regional competition to national Amateur Athletic Union tournaments. Via vintage footage and exclusive interviews with the players, ESPN's Scoop Jackson takes viewers back in time to catch a glimpse of these phenoms in action before they became household names. *Genius / ESPN*

SportsCentury Greatest Athletes Dale Earnhardt Jr. One of NASCAR's biggest names, Dale Earnhardt Jr. emerged from the shadow of his legendary father to forge an identity all his own, becoming a top competitor in the sport. This insightful ESPN documentary chronicles the life of the two-time Busch Series champion and 2004 Daytona 500 winner, along with the challenges and expectations he's faced as the son of one of stock-car racing's most illustrious figures. The program also explores the reasons behind Earnhardt's decision to stop driving for his company DEI and switch to Hendrick Motor Sports in 2007, and also features interviews with Dale, Jr. and his father, renowned stock car driver Dale Earnhardt, Sr. *Genius / ESPN*

Silent Night, Deadly Night Poor Ricky -- as a child he saw his parents slaughtered by a psychotic murderer in a Santa Claus suit, and then he had to go into an orphanage run by a sadistic nun. Now he's grown-up and out in the world, with his first real job doing guess what? Playing good old Saint Nick! Those little boys and girls just better watch out... cause Santa Claus is coming to town. This controversial horrorfest shocked America and had many people bricking up their chimneys. Linnea Quigley, Lilyan Chauvin co-star. *Anchor Bay*

Sunshine Danny Boyle has excelled in nearly every genre he's touched from the family film (*Millions*) to the zombie movie (*28 Days Later*) to the drug-fueled drama. With *Sunshine*, he brings his style and verve to the futuristic world of science fiction to great success. In a mere five decades in the future, the sun is dying, and Earth is running out of time. After the failure of a previous mission, it's up to the crew of the *Icarus II* to reignite the star with a stellar bomb. But the crew faces more than just the blistering heat of the sun and the freezing cold of space as they grapple with the limits of the human mind and heart. As in Boyle's previous work, the visuals in *Sunshine* are stunning. It's a beautifully shot film filled with contrasts, juxtaposing light and dark, sound and silence, and life and death. *Sunshine* resides in the respected realm of smart science fiction films such as *2001: A Space Odyssey* and *Solaris*. Alex Garland's fine script never dwells on the specifics of the technology, but instead spends its time on the characters. For these roles, Boyle has assembled an excellent cast that includes Cillian Murphy, Chris Evans, Michelle Yeoh, and Cliff Curtis. Like the classic *2001*, *Sunshine*'s appeal extends beyond its genre. Though it's packed with special effects and heart-stopping action, it's an intelligent film that should be enjoyed by everyone who loves movies, not just those who like science fiction. *Fox*