

New On Video & DVD

Gran Torino For his fourth directorial feature in the span of two years, Clint Eastwood tells the story of a grizzled Korean War vet's reluctant friendship with a Hmong teenage boy and his immigrant family. Set in contemporary Detroit, *Gran Torino* tackles the shifting cultural and economic landscape of not only the Motor City, but America as well. Eastwood stars as Walt Kowalski, an unabashed bigot who never heard a racial insult he didn't love. Bitter, haunted, and full of pride, Walt refuses to abandon the neighborhood he's lived in for decades despite its changing demographics as he clings desperately to a mindset long since out of step with the times. When his Hmong neighbor Thao tries to steal his prized muscle car as part of a gang initiation, Walt is forced to grapple with the world around him. *Gran Torino's* approach to the complicated issue of race relations is equal parts Archie Bunker and Crash. That is to say, there is nothing subtle about Walt's bigotry, yet his misanthropy knows no bounds, and Eastwood does a remarkable job of finding the humor in Walt's equal opportunity racism. More than simply a racial morality tale, however, *Gran Torino* is about the unlikely bonds that people form to navigate the subtle complexities every day life. Like *Million Dollar Baby*, *Gran Torino* explores the challenging yet rich new world that can open up when individuals let down their guard, even if for just a moment. Estranged from his family and his church, and without any sense of personal peace, Walt offers all that he has to Thao and his family, namely wisdom and protection. When tragedy strikes the family, Eastwood allows a little classic Harry Callahan to poke through, but the surprising finale posits a hero that *Dirty Harry* would never have the guts to be. It's a potent symbolic gesture to Eastwood's own growth as a storyteller. **Warner**

He's Just Not That Into You Boasting enough marquee names for three films, *He's Just Not That Into You* is a star-studded comedy about love and relationships. Director Ken Kwapis reigns over an impressive cast: Jennifer Aniston, Ben Affleck, Justin Long, Bradley Cooper, Ginnifer Goodwin, Jennifer Connelly, producer Drew Barrymore, Kevin Connolly, and Scarlett Johansson. Each of the nine major characters has his or her own plot a woman desperate to get married after seven years of dating, a man tempted to cheat on his wife, a young woman who just wants her date to call her, etc.--but everyone is connected through work, marriage, or friendship, drawing the characters and their stories together. Goodwin might be flanked by much larger stars--especially Aniston, Affleck, Barrymore, Connelly, and Johansson--but the adorable actress is the highlight of this film. Though her character's borderline obsessive efforts at love invite squirms and cringes from the audience, Goodwin's fine portrayal also earns the viewers' sympathy, especially since many people can identify with her struggles. In fact, *He's Just Not That Into You* is based on a popular self-help book that many women bought and bought into and the book itself grew out of an episode of *Sex And The City*. With its portrayals of numerous relationship issues, this romantic comedy is sure to appeal to the fans of *Carrie & Co.* **Warner**

Spring Breakdown Desperate to spice up their boring lives, three thirtysomething women (Amy Poehler, Rachel Dratch and Parker Posey) set off for a vacation on a tropical island known for its raucous Spring Break parties. But instead of recapturing their youth, they wind up mothering a senator's shy daughter (Amber Tamblyn). As they help the awkward girl grow more comfortable in her own skin, they, too, learn to embrace aging with wit, joy and grace. **Warner**

24 - Season 7 Following up on the harrowing events of the feature-length movie *Redemption*, *24's* full-throttle seventh season once again hurtles viewers back into the breathless pace of the series proper with all the fast-paced verve fans have come to expect from Fox's blockbuster action franchise. Federal Agent Jack Bauer (Kiefer Sutherland) returns from working alongside old friend Carl Benton at an underprivileged boys' school in war-ravaged Sangala, Africa, where he was forced to spring back into action after a heinous warlord kidnapped schoolchildren to be recruited as soldiers for a planned coup. Back in the States, Allison Taylor (Cherry Jones) has been inaugurated as the country's first female president, which puts her family in danger. Soon after returning, Jack discovers that the terrorists who have breached the government's computer database infrastructure may be the same ones behind the Sangala incident. In addition, the CTU is out of commission and Elisha Cuthbert returns as Jack's daughter, Kim. Included here are all 24 episodes. **Fox**

Man Hunt From Fritz Lang, the legendary director of *M* and *Metropolis*, *Man Hunt* is the tale of a British hunter (Walter Pidgeon) who, while vacationing in Bavaria, finds himself in an unbelievable position: sitting in his crosshairs is Adolf Hitler. What the hunter does next leads to his capture, vicious beating, and eventual escape back to London, where he is unrelentingly chased down by German agents and his only ally seems to be a local prostitute. **Fox**

Swamp Devil A young lady returns to her southern hometown to learn that her estranged father is in hiding, accused of murder in the swamps. But when the real culprit emerges, an inhuman, killing mass of mud and vines, more surprises emerge from the bog--those of a town healer, of secret buried years ago, and of the true identity of the vengeful *Swamp Devil*. Stars: Oscar-nominated Bruce Dern and Cindy Sampson. **Genius**

Wings The Final Season The sometimes touching and always funny 1990s sitcom *WINGS* starred Tim Daly and Steven Weber as Joe and Brian Hackett, two brothers trying to run a small airline on Nantucket while dealing with a lovable, eccentric group of employees and friends that included lunch-counter waitress Helen Chapel (Crystal Bernard), immigrant cab driver Antonio Scarpacci (Tony Shalhoub), oddball mechanic Lowell Mather (Thomas Haden Church), and Helen's uptight older sister, Casey (Amy Yasbeck). The hit sitcom's final season finds Brian and Joe Hackett (Steven Weber and Tim Daly) facing financial woes that may spell the end of Sandpiper Airlines. Bad luck hits Joe and Helen (Crystal Bernard) twice, as their anniversary plans get washed out and a trip to New York leaves them stranded. Meanwhile, a brainless beauty tempts Brian, and Antonio (Tony Shalhoub) learns some surprising information about his deceased uncle. Disc 1 includes the following episodes: "Porno For Pyros," "...Like A Neighbor Scorned," "Maybe It's You," "Single And Hating It," "Too Beautiful For You," "The Gift Of Life," "Olive Or Twist" and "Wingless: Part 1." Disc 2 includes the following episodes: "Wingless: Part 2," "Wingless: Part 3," "All About Christmas Eve," "Let's Talk About Sex," "Hosed," "Just Call Me Angel," "Fay There, Georgy Girl" and "Escape From New York." Disc 3 includes the following episodes: "House of Blues," "Ms. Write," "Dreamgirl," "Heartache Tonight," "Oedipus Wrecks," "Raging Bull." "Final Approach: Part 1" and "Final Approach: Part 2." **Paramount/CBS**

The Best of Star Trek The Next Generation Nearly two decades after the cancellation of the original *Star Trek* television series, creator Gene Roddenberry launched the first of what was to be four phenomenally successful spinoffs with *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. Set in the 24th century, the series introduced an all-new cast of intergalactic travelers exploring the farthest reaches out of outer space on a mission to chart new planets and alien civilizations. Ship commander Captain Jean-Luc Picard (Patrick Stewart) anchored the crew of the *Starship Enterprise-D* with a sensitive reserve that marked a distinct contrast to his trigger-happy predecessor, whose role was assumed by the Kirk-like second-in-command, William Riker (Jonathan Frakes). This collection presents four fan-favorite episodes from the beloved show. **Paramount/CBS**

The Best of Star Trek The Original Series Going boldly where no man had gone before, Gene Roddenberry's cult phenomenon *Star Trek* debuted in 1966 and reflected that decade's optimistic preoccupation with space travel. Set in the 23rd century, the series chronicled the intergalactic adventures of the U.S.S. *Enterprise* on its five-year mission to explore the outer reaches of space. Encountering a now-iconic assembly of innovative alien life forms such as the Klingons, Romulans, Tribbles, and Khan Noonian Singh, the ship's jumpsuited crew was a then-unheard-of font of multiculturalism: Asian Sulu (George Takei), African-American Uhura (Nichelle Nichols), and Scotsman Montgomery Scott (James Doohan). But it was the contrasting personalities of coolly logical Vulcan Mr. Spock (Leonard Nimoy), emotionally intuitive medical officer Leonard "Bones" McCoy (DeForest Kelley), and womanizing ship captain James T. Kirk (William Shatner in definitive overacting mode) that lent the series much of its charm and spawned a rabid cult following that continues to fuel costume sales and convention bookings to this very day. This collection presents four fan-favorite episodes from the iconic series. **Fox**