

# New On Video & DVD

**Entourage: Fifth Season** So that he'll never forget where he's from, actor-on-the-rise Vince Chase (Adrian Grenier) enlists the company and support of his childhood pals from Queens, New York, to join him on his path towards stardom. More than happy to oblige, Eric (Kevin Connolly), Turtle (Jerry Ferrara), and Chase's older brother, Johnny Drama (Kevin Dillon), eagerly move into Chase's L.A. mansion, where they enjoy endless parties in the company of beautiful women. With Hollywood as their playground, it doesn't take long for the entourage to discover that celebrity life is not all fun and games, especially as they contend with the high-pressure tactics of Vince's hilariously cutthroat agent, Ari (Jeremy Piven), and no-nonsense publicist, Shauna (Debi Mazar). HBO's hit Hollywood-centered comedy is back for a fifth season, with movie star Vincent Chase (Adrian Grenier) once again at the helm of his considerable posse, including his friends from back home, his brother, his representatives and a cadre of beautiful women. This time around, Vince must pick himself up off the pavement and square his shoulders against Hollywood as he struggles to save face in Tinseltown after his biggest failure yet. *HBO*

**12 Rounds** Finnish director Renny Harlin brings first-time screenwriter Daniel Kunka's story to life in the fast-paced action film 12 Rounds. When New Orleans police officer Danny Fisher (WWE wrestler John Cena) apprehends Miles Jackson (Aidan Gillen, *The Wire*), a villainous Irishman being pursued by the FBI, Jackson's girlfriend is accidentally killed. One year later, Jackson is out of prison and seeking revenge, kidnapping Fisher's girlfriend, Molly (Ashley Scott), and setting up an elaborate game of cat and mouse that traverses the city. Now a detective, Fisher, with the help of the FBI and his fellow officers, has to survive 12 rounds of Jackson's game each more mentally and physically challenging than the last if he wants to see Molly alive again. Meanwhile, the roguish Jackson may be seeking more than just retribution. Although the premise is completely implausible, 12 Rounds is a fun thrill ride. Jackson's plan and Fisher's ensuing pursuit leave an unimaginable trail of destruction throughout the city, managing to encompass fire engines, buses, a streetcar, and a helicopter, along with fires, explosions, and blackouts, among other things. There isn't a dull moment as Fisher and the FBI agents, played by Steve Harris and Gonzalo Menendez, try to outwit the seemingly omnipotent villain. Cena, resembling a super-sized Mark Wahlberg, fits the bill for an action hero. Gillen is a solid nemesis: heartless, stone-faced, and completely out for himself. Brian White plays Hank, Fisher's partner and best friend, and Scott is appealing as Fisher's feisty girlfriend. *Fox*

**Streetfighter: The Legend of Chun-Li** Based on the long-running Street Fighter video-game franchise, *The Legend of Chun-Li* stars Kristin Kreuk as the title character, a concert pianist who becomes a fiery karate-kicking avenger. Determined to rescue her father (Edmund Chen) from the clutches of Bangkok-based, bad-guy businessman Bison (Neal McDonough), Chun-Li enlists the help of the sage Gen (Robin Shou) and crosses paths with Interpol agents Nash (Chris Klein) and Maya (Moon Bloodgood). Aiding the sinister Bison are the formidable Balrog (Michael Clarke Duncan) and the deadly Vega (Taboo of the Black Eyed Peas), who are determined to eliminate Chun-Li and her allies, leading to numerous explosive martial-arts showdowns. Directed by Andrzej Bartkowiak, *Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li* easily outshines the 1994 Jean-Claude Van Damme adaptation of the video-game series (simply titled *Street Fighter*) with better casting and, of course, more advanced effects. While Kreuk works well as the earnest Chun-Li, McDonough and Duncan seem to be having the most fun hamming it up as the key villains. *Fox*

**Hide** Seven years after an ill-fated bank heist, convicted murderer Billy (Christian Kane) gets transferred to a prison in another state, opening a window for his lover and partner-in-crime (Rachel Miner) to help him escape. Once Billy is free, the duo drives in the direction of the hidden loot from their last job. But when they arrive at the spot, they realize they're about to come face to face with their brutal past in this pensive thriller. *MTI*

**Code** From acclaimed director Mimi Leder (*Deep Impact*), with an all-star action cast led by Morgan Freeman, Antonio Banderas and Radha Mitchell, *The Code* is full of deceit, thievery and twists at every turn. While pulling a down-and-dirty jewelry heist on a subway train, Gabriel (Banderas) encounters Ripley (Freeman), a legendary thief who was casing the same job. In spite of Gabriel's initial reluctance, Ripley manages to rope him into an impossible job: the theft of two priceless Faberge Imperial Eggs from the heavily guarded vault of a New York diamond wholesaler. The stakes rise for Gabriel and Ripley when Ripley's goddaughter (Mitchell) is kidnapped by the KGB. Staying one step ahead of the NYPD, the FBI, the diamond merchants and the vicious Russian KGB crime boss determined to have the priceless eggs for himself, Gabriel and Ripley must find a way to pull off the heist and make it out alive. *First Look*

**Ghost of Goldfield** On a mission to capture ghosts on video, college students Chad (Kellan Lutz), Julie (Marnette Patterson), Mike (Richard Chance), Dean (Scott Whyte) and Keri (Mandy Amano) travel to an abandoned haunted hotel -- but once there, they encounter the legacy of a horrific murder in this bloody spine-chiller. Enraged by his wife's (Ashly Rae) infidelity, the last hotel owner killed her, and now her spirit possesses Keri, who goes on a lethal rampage. *North American*

**A Class Apart** In the landmark 1954 case *Hernandez v. Texas*, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the 14th Amendment applied to all racial groups. This PBS documentary series looks at the Mexican-American legal team that took its fight to the highest court. Set against the broader story of the civil rights movement, this history lesson also tells of the Mexican-American post-World War II struggle against Jim Crow-style discrimination in the United States. *PBS*

**Jerusalem Center of the World** Home to three of the world's major religions, Jerusalem has been a center of both faith and conflict for 40 centuries. Journalist Ray Suarez traces the city's history and explains its importance to Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Using key passages from the Bible, the Torah and the Koran, as well as interviews with noted historians and religious leaders, this historical study reveals why Jerusalem continues to fascinate millions of believers. *PBS*

**The Jewish People A Story of Survival** Journalist Martha Teichner traces the history of the Jewish people, explaining how this vibrant culture has endured and thrived despite more than 4,000 years of slavery, oppression, anti-Semitism and near-genocide. Historical photos, rare documents and interviews with noted scholars serve to illuminate how the Jews survived for centuries -- while other communities vanished under the Babylonians, Romans, Nazis, Russians and other cruel regimes. *PBS*

**King Lear** Masterpiece Theatre presents this adaptation of one of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies, *King Lear*. Ian Holm, in the performance of a lifetime, stars as Lear, the king who, near the end of his life, begins to become psychologically unraveled, a process aided by the scheming of two of his daughters, Goneril and Regan. Thankfully, this Royal National Theatre production preserves both the often omitted character of the fool, Lear's shadow, and the parallel plot of Gloucester and his two sons, Edmund and Edgar. Dark, pessimistic, poetic, and intensely moving, *King Lear* has always been one of Shakespeare's most thrilling and emotionally intense plays, but, unfortunately, has never been produced appropriately on either television or film. Thankfully, Masterpiece Theatre has preserved a *Lear* for the ages that not only offers a slew of great performances, but an original staging of the action that reaches its apex with the powerful and unsettling storm scene (Act III, Scene IV) that, once seen, is not easily forgotten. *WGBH Boston*