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# **Featured DVD Review**

Don't bother looking for the zombies in this story. There aren't any. And the closest this adventure gets to the stratosphere is the background sky that the scale model of the hero 'flies' in front of in his cool rocket suit complete with twist button controls that let him go 'Up' and 'Down.' It's silly as hell, but this 1950s movie serial is still a lot of fun to watch. The story centers around a plot by Martians invaders (including a very young Leonard Nimoy) to set off an atomic bomb that will shift the earth out of orbit so Mars can take its place. The acting is bad and the effects are cheap, but every episode ends with a cliff hanger that will make you watch the next one just to see how the hero will escape. Sure most of the escapes are implausible, but so is everything else about this serial, so just sit back and enjoy the show.

# Zombies of the Stratosphere 4 stars



# **DVD REVIEWS every Friday**



## More Than This: The Story of Roxy Music

It's about time that somebody paid fitting tribute to what is arguably one of the most influential bands of all time. And it doesn't take interview clips with Bono, Duran Duran and a bunch of aging music critics to get the message across. This fascinating film lets the members of the band – and their music – do the talking. While it's great to see early clips of Bryan Ferry, Eno and the rest play The Strand and Ladytron, it's just as much fun to watch them reunite for shows in 2006. 4 stars



# Wrong Turn 3: Left for Dead

You will know within the first five minutes if this is a movie for you. Four kayakers set up camp by the river and are attacked and killed by a crazed mutant hillbilly. The movie suddenly shifts to a maximum security prison where a group of dangerous criminals is about to be transferred to another prison. It isn't long before the bus they are on crashes in the woods and the cons and their guards are being hunted by the hillbilly. The gore level is turned up to 11, but most of it looks so low budget it's almost laughable. 2 stars



# Love N' Dancing

There are two reasons to watch this straight-to-DVD movie: It features a winning performance by the lovely and talented Amy Smart, and it has some great dance sequences featuring cast members from the hit TV series So You Think You Can Dance. It's also a lot of campy fun if you enjoy dialogue cheesy enough to spread on a cracker. Otherwise this tepid tale of a hearing impaired former dance champion and the school teacher he partners with for his big comeback is pretty lame. 2 stars



# Blassreiter

A rare blood disease is turning people into Amalgams, strange robot demons with the ability to physically meld with any inanimate object they touch: They don't just ride a motorcycle, they absorb it. When a champion racer gets the disease, he somehow retains his human side, too, leading investigators to uncover a very strange plot. The series uses a lot of computer generated animnation to give the actions scenes a slick edge missing from a lot of other anime. Visually, it takes a bit to get used to, but eventually adds a lot to the look and feel of the adventure. 4 stars



# Comic Party Revolution

An anime movie based on a manga series about a group of students who write manga books. If that sounds like a good reason to sit through this two-disc set, then enjoy. Youngsters looking for simple romantic love stories may get a kick out of it, too. The rest of you might want to look elsewhere for your anime fix. The characters are silly, the art is bland and the voice acting is lame. 1½ stars.



# New World Order



If you are looking for a documentary about the WCW tag team, look somewhere else. Directed by Luke Meyer and Andrew Neel, this documentary takes a look at the people who believe, amog other things, that a few very rich and powerful people control everything, that the 911 disasters were an 'inside job' planned by the US government, and, of course, that the right wing killed JFK. It's interesting to listen to the conspiracy theorists for a while, but their rants soon get so out of control that you'll be thankful you have a mute button on your DVD player. 2 stars

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# OLO METAL MENAL

# Full Metal Panic: The Second Raid Box Set

It's not easy being a high school student when you are also a secret super soldier who commands a giant robot, but Sousuke Sagara does the best he can. It helps that the student he is assigned to keep an eye on is a blue-hair babe with a mad crush on him. Will they find time to fall in love while Sagara helps save the world from the evil giant robots? Only time will tell. Thankfully for anime action fans, a lot of stuff gets blown up while you wait. 3 stars

# WHERE THE WILD THROUGH FOR

# Where the Wild Things Are

Hot on the heels of the new Spike Jonze movie, scholastic Books has releases this compendium of animated films based on the writing of Maurice Sendak. The episodes of Wild Things and In The Night Kitchen meticulously recreate the author's visual style, but the reading by Weston Woods is uneven at best. The music video style interpretations of some of his other works by singer/songwriter Carol King are much better. 2 ½ stars

# Naruto Uncut Box Set: Season 1

Fans of the popular anime series will enjoy taking this trip back in time to see how Naruto Uzamaki started his quest to become the Hokage (ultimate ninja warrior) of the hidden leaf village. The stories are well told, the settings are beautiful and the action top notch. The beginning series stays away from some of the sillier aspects of the show (there's less emphasis on bodily functions than some of the later series). And that's a good thing. 3 stars



### Tokyo Maiin

Like a lot of anime, this series follows the adventures of a group of powerful teens with hidden supernatural powers battling the forces of evil. What sets it apart, though, are the truly nasty demons, zombies and other assorted bad guys they go up against. The zombies are gruesome, but the demons who control them — literally moving them around like flesh eating puppets on giant strings — will give you nightmares. 3 stars



# Top Chef New York

Stefan vs. Hosea. More than any other season, the battle between the overconfident (some would say obnoxious) Euro-chef and the good natured cook from Colorado had fans glued to their TVs every week. And what about poor Carla? Was her chance to better the boys intentionally sabotaged by one of the other cooks who was acting as her sous chef? And wasn't it awesome to see the chefs cook for The Foo Fighters? With more drama than a season of Italian opera, this season of Top Chef is even more fun to relive on DVD. 4 stars

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