



DVD Extra

Is that DVD you've got your eye on really worth the investment? Should you wait a few months until the "Special Edition" hits shelves? Or wait a few months after *that* for the "Director's Cut Definitive Edition"? DVD Extra lights the way.

February 23 DVD roundup

By [Harry Thomas](#) on Feb 19, 10 09:57 PM | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

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Big releases this week: "The Box," "Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant," "The Damned United," "Everybody's Fine," "The Informant!," "The Men Who Stare At Goats." Plenty of documentaries, ("The End Of The Line," "The September Issue") TV shows and others are vying for your attention as well.

Usual rules apply: synopses are taken from the press releases, snarky commentary is extra, and preview links go to Apple.com. And just in case you were wondering, the DVD prices are the listed retail prices. You can get them cheaper if you buy at discount stores or online.

Atomic Jihad: Ahmadinejad's Coming War for Islamic Revival and Obama's Politics of Defeat

MVD Entertainment, 95 minutes, \$14.95

Documentary about the Iranian President who has called for the destruction of Israel and is under fire from the world community for his country's nuclear aims. President Obama is trying to reach out to the guy, but it's not working. No extras listed.

Blank Generation

MVD Entertainment, 78 minutes, \$14.95

Reissue of 1980 punk rock movie about a French journalist (Carole Bouquet) who covers the life of an up and coming punk rock star, Billy (Richard Hell). Also stars Andy Warhol. Extras: new interview with Hell, live performances with Hell and his band the Voidoids.

The Box

Warner Bros., 116 minutes, PG-13

DVD: \$28.98

BD/DVD combo with digital copy: \$35.99

Cameron Diaz and James Marsden are a couple in financial trouble when a mysterious box arrives at their doorstep. If they push the button on the box, they will receive a substantial financial reward. However, someone will die as a result of their action. If they refuse to push the button, then something unspeakable will happen to them. Suspense ensues. Also stars Frank Langella. Extra: interview. BD adds commentary, two featurettes, music video.

Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant

Universal, 109 minutes, PG-13

DVD: \$28.98

BD: \$36.98

John C. Reilly plays Larten Crepsley, a vampire who takes on a 16-year-old assistant (Chris Massoglia) in a traveling sideshow. Challenges, suspense and fun are supposed to ensue, but this one didn't fare well with critics or the box office. Extras: two featurettes. BD adds picture-in-picture commentary, BD-Live capacity.

The Damned United

Sony, 98 minutes, R

DVD: \$28.96

BD: \$34.95

True story of Brian Clough's (Michael Sheen) ill-fated 44-day stint as manager of the legendary Leeds United football (British soccer) team in the 1970s. The team had just come off winning the championship the year before, and Clough was tasked to replace his rival, Don Revie (Colm Meaney). No one but his best friend Peter Taylor (Timothy Spall) likes the new manager. Chaos ensues. Extras: commentary, deleted scenes, interviews, three featurettes.

18 Kids and Counting: Season 2

TLC/Gaiam, 440 minutes, 22 episodes, 3 discs, \$19.98

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Since "Jon & Kate" are no longer an item, there's the Duggars with their 10 sons and eight daughters, all with names that start with "J." Extras: two bonus episodes.

[The End of the Line](#)

Docurama Films, 83 minutes, not rated, \$26.95

Documentary film takes a look at the effects of overfishing the world's oceans, and makes the startling prediction that unless something is done to slow it down and let the fish repopulate, they'll be gone by 2048. Narrated by Ted Danson. Extras: six webisodes, short film, biography, wallet-sized seafood guide.

[Everybody's Fine](#)

Miramax, 100 minutes, PG-13, \$29.99

Robert DeNiro decides to go visit his grown children after they all cancel out on a planned family reunion. He finds that their lives are less than the perfect ones he's been led to believe. Also stars Drew Barrymore, Kate Beckinsale and Sam Rockwell. Extras: deleted/extended scenes, music video.

Flashforward: Part 1, Season 1

ABC Studios, 430 minutes, 10 episodes, 2 discs, \$29.99

Every person on Earth blacks out for 2 minutes, 17 seconds at the same time on April 29, 2010. The result is a lot of world-changing. Disc release is time for the restart of the season on March 18. Extras: two featurettes.

G.B.H.

Acorn Media, 588 minutes, 7 episodes, 4 discs, \$59.99

British satirical political thriller about power, corruption and madness during the Margaret Thatcher years. Stars "Monty Python's" Michael Palin. Extras: commentary, interview, filmographies.

I Am Virgin: Unrated Director's Cut

MVD Entertainment, 90 minutes, \$19.95

Low-budget spoof of "I Am Legend" has the world transformed into sex-crazed vampires. Robby (Adam Davis) is the last uninfected human. And he's a virgin. You can imagine what goes on from there, I'm sure. Stars Ron Jeremy and a lot of Portland-area strippers. No extras listed.

[The Informant!](#)

Warner Bros., 108 minutes, R

DVD: \$28.98

BD/DVD combo with digital copy: \$35.99

Marc Whitacre (Matt Damon) is a biochemist and junior executive at Archer Daniels Midland that became a whistleblower to the FBI. But he seems to be bipolar, veering through hapless goofball to dysfunctional. BD extras: commentary.

Justice League: Crisis on Two Earths

Warner Bros., 72 minutes

DVD: \$19.98

2-disc Special Edition DVD: \$24.98

BD with digital copy: \$29.99

The DC Universe Justice League superheroes (Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, The Flash, etc.) fight their evil doppelgangers in this parallel earth full-length cartoon film. Extras: new animated short "The Spectre," featurette, bonus episodes. BD adds an extended featurette.

LEGO: The Adventures of Clutch Powers

Universal, 82 minutes, \$19.98

The toys get their own movie in this made-for-video adventure. Clutch Powers is the best LEGO builder, and he has to help a king's heir find the courage to regain the throne from an evil wizard. Uh-huh. NEXT! Extras: featurette, mini-movies.

Medicine Men Go Wild

Discovery/Gaiam, 172 minutes, 4 episodes, \$14.98

Four-part documentary follows two British physicians as they travel the world, checking out various forms of tribal medicine and cures for what ails humans. No extras listed.

[The Men Who Stare At Goats](#)

Overture Films/Anchor Bay, 94 minutes, R

DVD: \$28.98

BD with digital copy: \$35.99

Small town journalist Bob Wilton (Ewan McGregor) comes across a strange story in Iraq: a group of psychic U.S. Army spies which claim psychokinetic powers that call themselves Jedi Warriors. They claim to be able to read the enemy's thoughts, pass through walls and kill goats by staring at them. Supposedly based on a true story. Stars George Clooney, Kevin Spacey and Jeff Bridges. Extras: two featurettes, commentaries, character bios, deleted scenes.

Midsomer Murders: Set 15

Acorn Media, 400 minutes, 4 episodes, 4 discs, \$49.99

British town has four more murder mysteries for Detective Chief Inspector (Tom Barnaby) and Detective Sergeant Ben Jones

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(Jason Hughes) to solve. Extra: biography.

My Three Sons: Season Two, Volume One

CBS Video, 461 minutes, 3 discs, \$39.98

Endearing 1960s TV series about an aeronautics engineer and widower (Fred McMurray) raising his three sons. Season One releases were blasted by consumers for bad editing and new music. Don't know if this is more of the same. No extras listed.

Overhaulin'

Discovery, 8 episodes, 2 discs, \$29.95

Custom car builders take an unsuspecting guy's clunker and quickly remodel it into a hot custom car, without him knowing it. Sounds like "Extreme Makeover" for the car set. Available only on DiscoveryStore.com and TLCStore.com. No extras listed.

The September Issue

Lionsgate, 90 minutes, PG-13, \$29.98

Documentary about Vogue magazine's biggest yearly issue, with all of the humor and drama that goes with it. Extras: commentary, deleted scenes, photo gallery.

Sinbad: Where U Been?

Comedy Central, 90 minutes, \$14.98

Sinbad returns to the comedy stage to answer the title's question. Extras: behind-the-scenes featurette.

Storm Chasers: Let Chaos Ensue

Discovery, 8 episodes, 2 discs, \$29.95

Second season of Discovery Channel program about a group of storm chasers in "Tornado Alley," looking for IMAX footage and scientific data. Essentially, it's "Twister: The Series;" just without Bill Paxton and Helen Hunt. Available only on DiscoveryStore.com and TLCStore.com. No extras listed.

Superjail! Season 1

Adult Swim/Warner Bros., 111 minutes, 10 episodes, \$19.97

Active volcano houses a supermax prison full of dangerous criminals, fantastic creatures and a crazy warden. Some of the Amazon.com reviews refer to it as if "Willy Wonka running a prison." Sorry; not going there. Extras: music video, anamatics.

Taggart: Set 2

Acorn Media, 398 minutes, 8 episodes, 4 discs, \$59.99

20th season of long-running British police drama has a team of Glasgow detectives dealing with a world of prostitutes, drug dealers, crime lords and killers in a hardscrabble town. No extras listed.

T-Rex: A Dinosaur in Hollywood

Discovery/Gaiam, 86 minutes, \$14.98

Documentary humorously traces the discovery of the biggest meat-eating dinosaur and his Hollywood legacy, from "Gertie" to "Jurassic Park." Extra: sneak peek of the "T-Rex of the Deep" episode of "Monsters Resurrected" series.

Wartime Britain

Acorn Media, 597 minutes, 3 films, 5 discs, \$69.99

Three stories of British bravery and betrayal during World War II: "The Heat of the Day," which a woman must choose between a stranger or her lover's possible treason; "Housewife, 49" has an introverted woman who comes alive as a volunteer on the home front; "Island at War" covers the trials, tribulations and temptations of a group of Brits on a tiny Channel Island during the German occupation. Extras: biographies, interviews, filmographies, photo gallery, historical backgrounds.

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