

The Phantom's JOY OF SETS

FILM FINDS

Frank Henenlotter's cerebral 1988 cult hit **Brain Damage**, starring Rick Herbst as a brain juice-addicted youth coached by mini-alien Aylmer (indelibly voiced by the late, great Cool Ghoul himself, John Zacherle), receives a major makeover from the archivists at Arrow Video. The 2-disc Blu-ray + DVD special edition (\$29.95) arrives with intellectual additives galore, including a new Henenlotter audio commentary, a 2016 Off-screen Film Festival Q&A with that selfsame auteur, fresh cast and crew interviews, the original theatrical trailer and more. First pressing editions also come with a collector's booklet featuring an essay by genre scholar Michael Gingold.

Arrow's art-house arm, Arrow Academy, introduces late, great Japanese auteur Seijun (Branded to Kill) Suzuki's **The Taisho Trilogy** (\$99.95 6-disc Blu-ray + DVD), collecting a trio of masterworks by the prolific auteur: the erotically charged drama **Zigeunerweisen** (1980), 1981's **Kageroza**, about a playwright mesmerized by a woman who may be a wraith, and **Yumeji** (1991), imagining real-life painter-poet Tahahisa Yumeji's experience with a mysterious widow. The set includes a wealth of extras, including new introductions by film critic Tony Rayns, a making-of featurette, vintage Suzuki interview and, for the first pressing, an illustrated booklet.

Arrow also celebrates the work of one of Suzuki's cinematic contemporaries with **Kiju Yoshida: Love + Anarchism** (\$59.95 3-disc Blu-ray). The set gathers three controversial films: **Eros + Massacre** (1969), presented in both theatrical and full-length director's cuts, centers on early 20th-century anarchist and sexual freedom advocate Sakae Osugi; **Heroic Purgatory** (1970) offers a surreal meditation on 1970s radical politics; and **Coup d'etat** (1973) returns to the 1930s for a biopic of right-wing extremist Ikki Kita. Extras include introductions by Yoshida, a documentary look at the filmmaker, film historian commentaries, an 80-page book, trailers and more.

Arrow Academy likewise focuses on a famed French filmmaker with its **Jacques Rivette Collection** (\$99.95 6-disc Blu-ray + DVD). The set includes **Duelle** (1976), an elaborate quest fantasy starring Bulle Ogier as the Queen of the Sun and Juliet Berto as the Queen of the Night; the offbeat pirate adventure **Noirot** (1976), with Geraldine Chaplin; and the mystery **Merry-Go-Round** (1981),

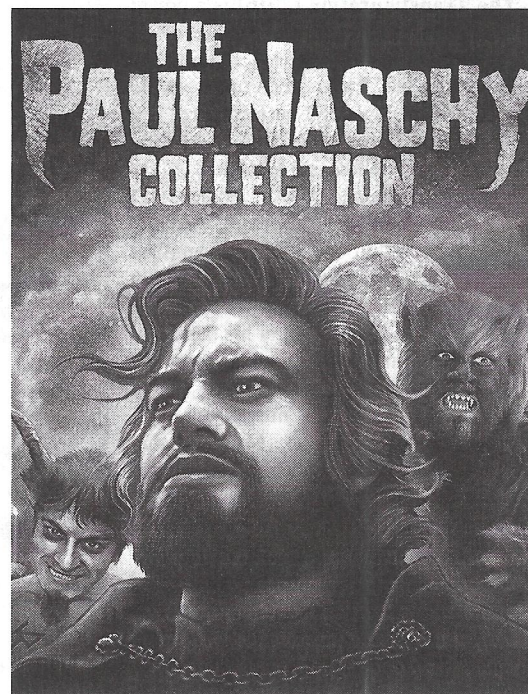
featuring Maria Schneider and Joe Dallsandro. Among the bonus material are archival excerpts from a Rivette documentary, new cast interviews, a Q&A with critic Jonathan Rosenbaum, and a book discussing the films.

A victim, like its fellow teen gang classic Walter Hill's **The Warriors**, of a 1979 anti-film violence witch hunt, Philip Kaufman's **The Wanderers**, based on Richard Price's popular novel and toplining Ken Wahl and Karen Allen, quickly vanished from theaters. Now Kaufman's urban **American Graffiti** variation finally finds its way to Blu-ray via Kino Lorber Films. The 2-disc set (\$29.95) offers both the Theatrical Cut and the Preview Cut, along with a Kaufman commentary, a second audio track by film historian Annette Insdorf, a **Richard Price: Back to the Bronx** featurette, a Film Forum cast and crew Q&A, a brace of additional Q&A events, a new cast introduction, trailers and TV spots.

Blue Underground goes the deluxe route with Gary (Dead & Buried) Sherman's 1972 London underground-set shocker **Death Line** (aka **Raw Meat**), pairing peerless genre icons Donald Pleasance and Christopher Lee. The double-disc Blu-ray edition (\$39.98) furnishes a full menu of exclusive extras, including an audio commentary by writer-director Sherman, producer Paul Maslansky and assistant director Lewis More O'Ferrall, **Tales from the Tube**, an interview with auteur Sherman and executive producers Jay Kanter and Alan Ladd Jr., **Up from the Depths**, an interview with costar David Ladd and producer Maslansky, **Mind the Doors**, an interview with onscreen menace Hugh Armstrong, plus trailer, TV and radio spots and a collectible booklet.

The Film Detective, in association with the UCLA Film & Television Archive, preserves and presents a Special Restored Edition of Frank R. Strayer's 1933 chiller **The Vampire Bat** (\$19.99). The black-and-white thriller about suspected vampire attacks in a 20th-century European village assembles a trio of vintage fright-film faves—Fay (**King Kong**) Wray, Dwight (**Dracula**) Frye and Lionel (**Son of Frankenstein**) Atwill—along with star Melvyn Douglas. Extras include an audio commentary by genre-film scholar and filmmaker Sam Sherman and an interview with Melvyn Douglas' son Gregory Hesselberg.

Shout! Factory offers a lavish terror treat for Eurohorror fans with its gala **Paul Naschy Collection** (\$79.97). The 5-disc Blu-ray set collects a quintet of uncut Naschy (aka Jacinto Molina Alvarez) '70s shockers: **Vengeance of the Zombies**, **Horror Rises from the Tomb**, **Night of the Werewolf**, **Blue Eyes of the Broken Doll** and **Human Beasts**. The set includes an audio commentary by Rod Barnett and Troy Guinn of



the NaschyCast podcast, plus alternate sequences, deleted scenes, trailers, a stills gallery and much more.

The Buena Vista Social Club—Wim Wenders' elegaic ode to the elderly musical magicians of Old Havana, from singer/guitarist Compay Segundo to piano wizard Ruben Gonzalez, among many others—receives a significant audiovisual upgrade via Criterion Collection's new HD Blu-ray edition (\$39.95). In addition to the feature documentary, orchestrated by American musician/fan Ry Cooder, the Blu-ray features a director's commentary and a new interview with Wenders, a 1998 Compay Segundo interview covering Cuba's colorful musical/cultural history, archival radio interviews with some of the key players, additional scenes, and an essay by author Joshua Jelly-Schapiro.

In the documentary arena, Kino Lorber issues the 3-disc **The Gianfranco Rosi Collection** (\$49.95 Blu-ray), leading with the Oscar nominee **Fire at Sea** (2016), an intense account of African refugees bound for an island off the coast of Italy. Completing the quartet are the California-set **Below Sea Level** (2008), **Boatman** (1993), exploring life on India's Ganges River, and **Sacro GRA** (2013), a tour of Italy's ring road. Bonus material includes a Rosi interview, booklet essay by Nicholas Rapold, a Rosi Q&A at the New York Film Festival, and trailers.

Magnolia Home Entertainment debuts **XX** (\$29.98 Blu-ray), a fresh fright-film anthology featuring four female filmmakers: Annie Clarke (**The Birthday Party**), Roxanne Benjamin (**Don't Fall**), Karyn Kusama (**Her Only Living Son**) and Jovanka Vuckovic (**The Box**), with a wrap-around by animator Sofia Carrillo. Extras include director interviews, behind-the-scenes featurettes and set visits.