



DARK HOLLOW FILMS

New Releases

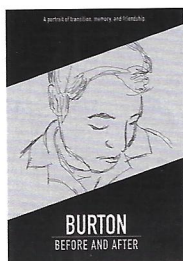


A NEW ECONOMY

Seven organizations move towards a more cooperative future by experimenting with non-traditional business models.

"This isn't touchy-feely stuff; this is about getting the world to actually work."

— Richard Sennett, London School of Economics

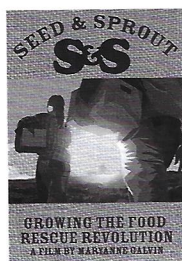


BURTON BEFORE AND AFTER

A short documentary portrait of one person's gender-affirming transition showing what life was like before the change and then fifteen years after.

"Deeply, sweetly human."

—Parent of a gender non-conforming child



SEED & SPROUT

Can ordinary people end hunger? This film follows eight innovative food rescue initiatives in an effort to find out.

"This film is a must see for those who care about our environment and are concerned about our hungry citizens."

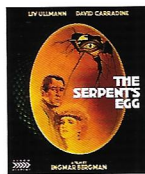
—Michelle Winning, Vista/EndHunger.org

www.darkhollowfilms.com

is highly recommended. (S. Axmaker)

The Serpent's Egg ★★

Arrow, 114 min., R, Blu-ray: \$39.99

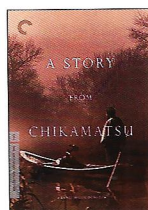


Ingmar Bergman made his only English-language film after leaving Sweden over tax issues. *The Serpent's Egg*, a drama set in 1923 Berlin during the depths of the postwar Depression, is produced by Dino De Laurentiis and shot in Germany with a cast of actors who (apart from long-time collaborator Liv Ullmann) had never worked with the director. David Carradine is Abel Rosenberg, a Jewish-American circus performer who sinks into alcoholism and apathy after the suicide of his brother, and Ullman is Manuela, Abel's brother's widow, who performs in a cabaret by night and a brothel by day. The plot involves a police inspector (Gert Fröbe) who suspects Abel in a series of mysterious murders, and a mad scientist performing diabolical experiments on often unwitting subjects. Bergman attempts to create a Kafka-esque sense of paranoia and an atmosphere of anguish and hopelessness that lays the foundation of the Nazi takeover later in the decade (the film ends with a failed attempt by the Nazi party to seize power), but the result is a languid, often turgid film that seems to stumble along without narrative shape—a rare misstep in the career of one of the greats of 20th-century cinema. Extras include audio commentary by actor Carradine, the new featurette "Bergman's Egg" with an appreciation by critic and author Barry Forshaw, archival featurettes, a stills gallery, and a booklet. An optional purchase. (S. Axmaker)

A Story from Chikamatsu

★★★1/2

Criterion, 102 min., in Japanese w/English subtitles, not rated, DVD: \$29.99, Blu-ray: \$39.99

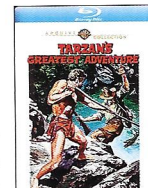


Based on an 18th-century play that was originally written for Bunraku puppet theater and released with the title *The Crucified Lovers* in the U.S., *A Story from Chikamatsu* turns a drama of doomed lovers into a portrait of hypocrisy in feudal Japan. The plot involves Mohei (Kazuo Hasegawa), a loyal apprentice in the printing house of the wealthy Grand Scroll Master Ishin, and Osan (Kyoko Kagawa), the young wife of Ishin, who is in need of money to save her reckless brother from prison. The pair flee when they are accused of adultery, a crime punishable by death, but they are innocent while the rich and powerful Ishin is himself guilty of forcing himself on a young female servant—the most blatant example of the double standards at play in this cruel, unforgiving society. The great Japanese filmmaker Kenji Mizoguchi directed this tragic drama in the midst of a fertile creative period and it has

been overshadowed by his masterpieces *The Life of Oharu*, *Ugetsu*, and *Sansho the Bailiff*. Mizoguchi's direction is sensitive and lyrical, from contrasting the earnest Mohei and Osan against the scheming figures in the bustling printing house, to the ominous beauty of the countryside as they fall in love while fleeing the merciless hands of feudal justice. A thankfully resurrected classic presented in a gorgeous Criterion edition, extras include an interview with actress Kagawa and an illustrated audio essay by film scholar Dudley Andrew. Highly recommended. (S. Axmaker)

Tarzan's Greatest Adventure ★★★

Warner, 87 min., not rated, Blu-ray: \$21.99



Gordon Scott plays Tarzan in his fourth appearance as the jungle man created by Edgar Rice Burroughs. Anthony Quayle is the villain Slade, a cold-blooded hunter and tracker leading a group of mercenaries to a hidden diamond mine in the jungle. Tarzan takes up Slade's trail after the latter kills innocent villagers while stealing dynamite from a village depot. Sara Shane costars as a jet-setting model and pilot who crashes her plane in the wilderness and is taken along the journey by Tarzan, and Sean Connery is one of the criminals, part of a greedy, cutthroat group that turns on each other as Tarzan tracks them up the river. The *Tarzan* films had been low-budget B-movies for a couple of decades, but Sy Weintraub, who made his debut as a producer with this 1959 film, gave this production a more impressive budget, a solid supporting cast, and a grittier sensibility to appeal to more adult audiences. Where Scott previously played the character in a simple-speaking mode in the Johnny Weismuller tradition, he's more articulate here, which is closer to the original creation in the novels, and the violence has a harder edge as one character after another dies a gruesome (if non-explicit) death and Tarzan himself suffers major injuries. Director John Guillermin went on to helm such prestigious productions as *The Blue Max* and *The Towering Inferno*. While not a major film, this is one of the superior productions in the long-running series and one of the best since Weismuller left the franchise. Recommended. (S. Axmaker)

Video Librarian Online

Visit Video Librarian Online (www.videolibrarian.com) during March and April for DVD/Blu-ray-specific comments added to the video movies reviewed here, as well as new reviews of current and classic films, including: *Ben Is Back*, *Creed II*, *London Fields*, *Mary Queen of Scots*, *Mortal Engines*, *Ralph Breaks the Internet*, and much more!