



The set also incorporates a **Comedy Triple Feature** disc presenting three of Jerry's later 1960s offerings—the London-set **Don't Raise the Bridge, Lower the River, Hook, Line & Sinker**, costarring Peter Lawford and Anne Francis, and **3 on a Couch**, with Janet Leigh and James Best—while a **Comedy Double Feature** pairs a deuce of Dean Martin screwball farces, **Who Was That Lady?** (1960), featuring Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh, and **How to Save a Marriage and Ruin Your Life** (1968), with Stella Stevens and Eli Wallach.

Elsewhere on the comedy front, Mill Creek assembles **The Kids in the Hall: The Complete Collection** (\$39.98), a massive 12-DVD set that includes all the Canadian comedy troupe's TV episodes spanning eight seasons (nearly 800 skits in all), presented uncensored, along with the original pilot, season compilations and the reunion special **Death Comes to Town**. Multiple extras include select audio commentaries, **An Oral History** with interviews with the Kids, from Dave Foley to Scott Thompson, rare archival footage, original performances from the Rivoli Theater, deleted/extended scenes and more.

On the crime-fighting front, Acorn Media issues the popular Laura La Plante-based mystery series **The Commander Complete Collection** (7-disc \$59.99), gathering all 17 episodes of the long-running show starring Amanda Burton as Serious Crime Group Commander Clare Blake, Scotland Yard's highest-ranking female police officer, and featuring guest stars Saskia Reeves, Hugh Bonneville and many more. The set includes

an Amanda Burton interview, a character retrospective with creator Laura La Plante, a supporting cast featurette, and more. Don (**Serangoon Road**) Hany stars as a Muslim detective working Sydney's racially tense western suburbs in **East West 101, Series 1** (\$39.99), a gritty Australian crime show, also from Acorn Media. The six-episode, two-disc set includes a behind-the-scenes featurette. The same label introduces **Rebecka Martinson Series 1** (2-disc \$49.99), assembling all eight debut season episodes starring Ida Engvoll as an unconventional Stockholm lawyer whose return visit to her remote northern hometown involves her in a murder case.

FILM FINDS

Arrow Video goes back to the basket with a deluxe Blu-ray special edition of Frank Henenlotter's beloved 1982 cult outing **Basket Case** (\$39.95), a 4K restoration from the original 16mm negative that premiered last year at NYC's Museum of Modern Art. The deluxe double-disc set has a basketful of gruesome goodies, including a new audio commentary by director Henenlotter and star Kevin Van-Hentenryck, multiple cast and crew interviews, featurettes and more. Arrow also introduces Toho Studios Dracula-centric 1960s terror troika **The Bloodthirsty Trilogy** (3-disc \$49.95), assembling **The Vampire Doll**, **Lake of Dracula** and **Evil of Dracula**.

Criterion Collection issues restored Blu-ray editions of a pair of classic films by German auteur G.W. Pabst (\$39.95 each). 1931's **Kammerschaft** dramatizes a mine collapse near the French-German border and the collaborative efforts of representatives of both rival nations to work together to free the trapped miners. Extras include new interviews with film scholars, an essay by historian/critic Luc Sante, and more. The previous year's WW I classic, **Westfront 1918**, likewise arrives with a wealth of bonus material.

Vinegar Syndrome follows its deluxe edition of Jamaa Fanaka's literally hard-hitting prison pic **Penitentiary** (1979) with an equally gala double feature from the same inventive African American auteur, the exceedingly surreal revenge film **Welcome Home, Brother Charles**, coupled with the provocative action drama **Emma Mae** (\$32.98 2-disc Blu-ray + DVD), known during its VHS run as **Black Sister's Revenge**. The set arrives with bonus material ranging from new interviews to featurettes.

Shout! Factory presents a new Blu-ray set of Larry Cohen's killer-infant trio **The It's Alive Trilogy** (3-disc \$39.95), rounding up the original **It's Alive** (1974), **It Lives Again** (1978), and **It's Alive III: Island of the Alive** (1987), along with fresh bonus features. ☿

CULT COMEDY CORNER

PULP (1972) ☿☿1/2

D: Mike Hodges. Michael Caine, Mickey Rooney, Lizbeth Scott, Lionel Stander, Nadia Cassini. 95 mins. (Arrow Video/MVD) 12/17

In a fictional Mediterranean country in the midst of what would appear to be a one-party election campaign, Caine is a British ex-pat earning a living as the author of such fare as **My Gun Is Long**. Rooney, a retired movie star who used to play gangsters and seems to fancy himself one, hires Caine to ghost-write his autobiography, and Caine promptly finds himself in the middle of one of his own stories, complete with assassinations, political corruption, and dark pasts. Caine saunters through the proceedings with a laconic cynicism that occasionally collapses into panic when his own life is threatened, while his world-weary, self-aggrandizing narration is sometimes strikingly at odds with what is actually happening. Rooney chews the scenery as the irritating, would-be tough guy, while Stander is clearly having fun as the hired muscle who enjoys the good life and doesn't want to rock the boat or exert himself overmuch. Cassini's part is limited to her being sexy, but Scott, femme fatale of the classic noir period, comes out of retirement for a cinematic swan song and is truly formidable in her few scenes. **Pulp** can be very funny, at times anticipating **Airplane!** in the ways it has fun with its genre (such as when the goon shadowing Caine is dismayed to be called upon to give Caine's taxi a push to get it started). It also has a tendency to meander, though, and the energy of the early scenes dissipates. If the humor and the cynicism become a little too predictable as things go on, **Pulp** nevertheless has enough spark to make it worth a watch. The extras are interviews with director Mike Hodges, DP Ousama Rawi, editor John Glen, and Tony Klinger (son of producer Michael). ☿

—David Annandale

