

look as good as a low-budget film is going to, but diehard fans won't find much else to sink their teeth – or hooks – into here.

- MADDI MCGILLVRAY

## PROFONDO ARGENTO

### DEEP RED (1975) Blu-ray

Starring David Hemmings, Daria Nicolodi and Gabriele Lavia  
Directed by Dario Argento  
Written by Dario Argento and Bernardino Zapponi  
Arrow Video

Having invented the *giallo* genre with the “Animal Trilogy” of *The Bird With the Crystal Plumage*, *The Cat o’Nine Tails* and *Four Flies on Grey Velvet*, Dario Argento delivered its ne plus ultra with 1975’s *Deep Red* (a.k.a. *Profondo Rosso*). Like his previous trio, *Deep Red* is distinguished from others in the genre, which often involve police investigations, by its focus on a civilian – here, jazz pianist Marcus Daly (David Hemmings) – who tries to get to the bottom of a series of vicious murders. The photography in *Deep Red* is more colourful, the camerawork more baroque, and the killings more splattery than ever before in Argento’s work and *gialli* in general, and it has become an enduring classic.

Arrow Video celebrated that status with a smashing, limited UK-only Blu-ray set two years ago, and has now made it available as a U.S. release. Its centrepiece is a ravishing 4K widescreen scan from the original negative, presenting *Deep Red* in both its original 126-minute cut and the significantly shorter export version. The hues are bold and the image remarkably sharp, particularly during the macrophotography of eyes, weapons and other objects. This two-disc edition lacks the CD soundtrack from the British one, but otherwise replicates all the extras, both physical (lobby card reproductions, a double-sided poster, a booklet with intriguing essays by Mikel J. Koven and Alan Jones) and video/audio.

Chief among the latter is a deeply analytical commentary by filmmaker/Argento expert Thomas Rostock, who digs into *Deep Red*’s themes and visual schemes, revealing the movie’s many levels and how it relates to others in Argento’s filmography. *Profondo Giallo*, a video appreciation by Michael Mackenzie, employs clips and other images to further explore *Deep Red*’s style, gender/sexuality issues, etc. Archival interviews with Argento, actress Daria Nicolodi and composer Claudio Simonetti fill in plenty of detail on the production and the filmmaker himself (plus odd trivia like a proposed 3-D remake to have been helmed by George A. Romero!), and

a tour of the Profondo Rosso horror store with Luigi Cozzi will make you want to hop on the next flight to Rome.

MICHAEL GINGOLD

## WEREWOLF FEVER

### FULL MOON HIGH (1981) Blu-ray

Starring Adam Arkin, Roz Kelly and Ed McMahon  
Written and directed by Larry Cohen  
Shout! Factory

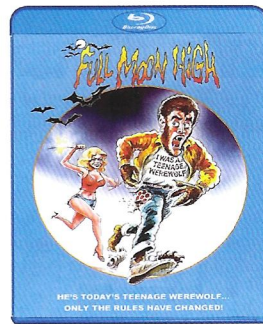
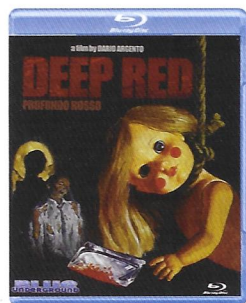
Hitting theatres long before Michael J. Fox’s tamer *Teen Wolf* (1985), *Full Moon High* is an eerily similar, but more manic work from horror veteran Larry Cohen. Pitched somewhere between Mel Brooks movies and *Mad* magazine, it’s a surprisingly decent spoof that, after inexplicably skipping the DVD era, is now available on a pristine-looking Blu-ray from Shout! Factory.

Bitten by a wolf during an ill-fated visit to Romania in the 1950s, high school senior Tony (Adam Arkin) returns home to discover he’s become victim to a lycanthropic curse. After terrorizing the town, he decides to quit his studies and head to New York City, ditching his chance to play in the school’s big football game. Twenty years later, Tony returns, posing as his own son (he hasn’t aged; a side effect of the curse) to finish his studies and help his alma mater trample their football rivals.

Consider yourselves warned: horror takes a notable backseat to *Full Moon High*’s wall-to-wall gags, so don’t get too hung up on rudimentary makeup or crude transition FX. As the wolf, Tony doesn’t kill anyone (“I’m just a nibbler,” he confesses), but instead delivers deadpan wisecracks (“You’re lucky being able to die – I don’t even get a temperature”) and has his love life ruined by fleas. *Full Moon High* boasts a loose, improvised feel that showcases many of the naturally funny talent involved, including then-notable names like Roz Kelly, Louis Nye, Bob Saget, Bill Kirchenbauer, Ed McMahon and Pat Morita. But it’s comic legend Alan Arkin – star Adam’s father – who steals the show as a callous psychiatrist looking to sell Tony’s body to science.

Aside from the expected trailer, the new Blu-ray’s only extra is a commentary by Cohen himself, alongside documentarian Steve Mitchell. The pair offer up mostly dry behind-the-scenes anecdotes, including casting and shooting location details. But no matter – *Full Moon High* is a funny, furry effort that belongs alongside like-minded fare like *Frankenstein General Hospital* (1988) and *Monster High* (1988); comedies that aren’t afraid to take a toothy bite out of the rich vein of horror.

PAUL CORUPE



## BEHIND THE I

### BEHIND THE MASK: THE RISE OF LESLIE VERNON

Starring Nathan Baesel, Angela Goethals and Robert Englund  
Directed by Scott Glosserman  
Written by David J. Stieve and Scott Glosserman  
Shout! Factory

Deftly straddling the line between slasher cinema begun in the 1970s and the horror verité of *Paranormal Activity* a couple years later, 2007’s *Behind the Mask: The Rise of Leslie Vernon* pulls off the delicate act of satirically poking fun at the psycho-movie tropes of the genre’s time. Framed for the documentary video by journalist Taggart (Angela Goethals), the film focuses on the eponymous character (Nathan Baesel), who is part of the pantheon of great slasher villains. Needless to say, Vernon is involved in her s

*Behind the Mask* switches to film as Leslie Vernon is in earnest.

Both media are distinctively excellent colours in the 1.85:1 format. The new Scream Factory Blu-ray