



SEIJUN SUZUKI: THE EARLY YEARS VOL. 2 (Blu-ray+DVD)

Arrow Films

Boundary-breaking early crime thrillers, mob dramas, and action movies from legendary cult director Seijun Suzuki. Made across the first five years of Suzuki's career, it is a mix that laid the groundwork for what was to come. The five films include, *The Sleeping Beast Within* (1960), a gripping crime thriller about a newspaper reporter's search for his girlfriend's missing father that leads him into the heart of the criminal underworld of Yokohama's Chinatown. Its companion piece, *Smashing the O-Line* (1960), follows two reporters' descent into a scabrous demimonde of drug and human trafficking. In *Eight Hours of Terror* (1957), a bus making its precarious way across a winding mountain road picks up some unwelcome passengers. In *Tokyo Knights* (1961), a college student takes over the family business in the field of organized crime, while *The Man With a Shotgun* (1961) marks Suzuki's first entry into the territory of the "borderless" Japanese Western.

JASPER JONES (DVD)

Film Movement

Adapted from Craig Silvey's acclaimed coming-of-age novel, *Jasper Jones* tells the story of Charlie Bucktin, a bookish fourteen year-old boy living in a small Australian town. One night, during the scorching summer of 1969, he is startled by Jasper Jones, the town's mixed-race outcast, who appears outside his window, desperate for help. Entrusted with a dangerous and terrifying secret, Charlie's life is forever changed as he embarks on a journey to solve a chilling mystery, all while defeating the local racists, dealing with the breakup of his parents, and falling head over heels in love.

MAZE RUNNER: THE DEATH CURE (Blu-ray+DVD+Digital)

Twentieth Century Fox Home Ent.

Gladers and fans will be excited to know that Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment is making *Maze Runner: The Death Cure* available to enjoy in your own home. The thrilling finale to the epic *Maze Runner* trilogy was released on Blu-ray, DVD, and Digital on April 24th. Thomas (Dylan O'Brien) leads his group of escaped Gladers on their final mission. To save their friends, they must break into the legendary Last City, a WCKD-controlled labyrinth that may turn out to be the deadliest maze of all. Anyone who makes it out alive will get answers to the questions the Gladers have been asking since they first arrived in the maze. Also includes 24-page *The Maze Runner Origins Comic Book* and exclusive sticker pack.

THE FINAL YEAR (DVD)

Magnolia Home Ent.

The Final Year is an illuminating look at President Barack Obama's last year in office as it follows key members of the Obama administration, including President Obama, throughout 2016, up until the

morning of President Trump's inauguration. Viewers will have a front-row seat as Obama's foreign policy team, including Secretary of State John Kerry, United Nations Ambassador Samantha Power, Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes, National Security Adviser Susan Rice, and even President Obama himself, work to cement the President's legacy ahead of the 2016 election. Over the course of 2016, they travel the world attempting to solidify and "lock-in" policies that they believe will define their legacy, promote diplomacy over large-scale military action, and fundamentally alter how the U.S. government confronts questions of war and peace as they prepare to hand over the machinery of American power to the new administration.

BLOOD AND GLORY (DVD)

MVDvisual

During the Anglo-Boer War, British soldiers murder Willem Morkel's innocent wife and only child. Willem is captured and sent to the St. Helena concentration camp, where Colonel Swannell, an imperialist with an insatiable hatred for the Afrikaner nation, holds him prisoner. The prisoners are subjected to unspeakable brutality on the island, constantly degraded and dehumanized by Colonel Swannell and his men. A young prisoner tries to escape, is caught, and sentenced to death. Willem interjects and puts forward an ultimatum: If the Boers can defeat the Swannell's experienced Royal Regiment in a game of rugby, then Swannell must pardon the boy and spare his life. Then Swannell changes the deal, instead saying that if the boy lives, then Willem dies. Following victory by the Boers, Colonel Swannell goes back on his word and decides to kill the boy instead of Willem. A new Colonel from London steps in and relieves Swannell of his position. The Anglo-Boer War ended May 31, 1902, and in five months, all prisoners were finally released and sent home.

JERMAL (DVD)

Indie Pix Films

After his mother's death, 12-year-old Jaya is sent to his father, Johar, who works as a supervisor on a jermal (a fishing platform perched on log stilts in the middle of the sea). Johar is shocked, never knowing he had a son, and rejects the boy as his kin. Fully aware he can't bring Jaya back to land due to a dark past, Johar is forced to accept the boy as a worker on the site. Faced with constant rejection from his father and bullying by the other boys on the jermal, Jaya decides to take fate into his own hands. He gives up hope on being accepted and learns the skills and attitude needed to survive. Jaya becomes like the other boys, a tough, rough survivor, while Johar is forced to gradually face and accept his past. Eventually, both Johar and Jaya learn that they are bound by their past, united by the space in which they move, and connected by the by the inescapable truth.

The time has come, the walrus said,

TO TALK OF MANY THINGS of shoes and ships and sealing wax of cabbages and kings

by Sal Giarattani

NO CLEAR SAILING FOR TALL DEVAL

This past weekend, over in Worcester, the state GOP convention easily nominated Governor Charlie Baker for a second term. He received seventy percent of the ballot votes. However, Scott Lively lived up the convention by getting twenty-eight percent of the delegate ballots and easily making the primary in September.

Apparently, there's a good percentage of Republicans who think Baker is really too liberal for them and they also think he has dissed President Trump on more than one occasion.

Too bad the Democrats have two candidates who have little more than a snowman's chance in hell to survive the November election. Their best candidate, former Newton Mayor Setti Warren, surprisingly pulled out of the race. He had the best chance to take on Baker.

It reminds me of 1994 when the Democrats nominated Mark Roosevelt against Bill Weld's re-election bid. Mark was a nice guy but no match for Weld, who had no trouble winning that year.

ALL SAINTS WAY FLAG CEREMONY

Recently caught up with Peter Baldassari on a step ladder on Battery Street replacing a worn Old Glory with a brand-new flag. His All Saints Way, a North End tradition, is a great tourist attraction, too. Baldassari helps to make the North End the super neighborhood that it is.

EAST BOSTON

WALKS FOR PEACE 2018

Someone once said, "If you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together." Well, the warm weather has arrived and so, too, have neighborhood peace walks across the City of Boston. Here in East Boston, the next walks will be May 17th and June 21st. Like last year, they begin at 6:00 pm outside Boston P.D. Area-7 station. Starting on July 5th, the walks will be held on a weekly basis. I walked last year and will again this summer.



All hands on deck to salute our flag for Peter Baldassari at All Saints Way
(Photo by Sal Giarattani)

BAIL IS FOR FLIGHT RISK THREAT

A couple of culprits made the news recently. A suspect holding a foreign passport at the Quincy District Court was released on bail and ordered to turn in his passport within 24 hours. He was charged with a rape in Weymouth. Guess what happened? If you guessed he fled the country using his passport, you are a winner ... Oh, and ICE had a retainer on him and he never should have been released with or without his passport. Major screw-up.

John Williams had just been let out on bail by a MA judge. His bail was \$7,500 and then lowered again to \$5,000. He had no ties to Massachusetts. He ended up killing a deputy sheriff in Maine.

In both these cases, bail should have been denied, solely on the basis of both being potential flight risks, especially the guy who kept his passport.

MOTHERS DAY

WALK FOR PEACE

MAY 13TH

Since 1996, the Dorchester community has been holding Mother's Day Walks for Peace to aid mothers of murdered children work through the murders, grief, trauma, and loss with the support of their neighbors. No one suffers alone. We suffer today and we heal together. This walk is the work

of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. For twenty-two years now, folks have pulled together and worked to both remember the deceased and to build safe communities.

For more information, go to mothersdaywalk4peace.org.

EAST BOSTON

SOCIAL CENTER FUNRAISER

Once again, the East Boston Social Center held its annual spring fundraiser with plenty of laughs and pizza at the Prince Restaurant on Route 1 in Saugus. It was another successful time and raised money to support services and programs for all who are members of this Center.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME



A much younger Sal back when we all loved Ike.

Yep, today, May 4th, "May the Force be with You Day," I turn the Big Seven-0.

You know, back in the day, during Disco and all, I loved the Seventies. Let's hope I love these Seventies just as much!

KERMIT'S BACK AGAIN



(Photo by Sal Giarattani)

Kermit loves to be my back-seat driver. Recently spotted him reading a book about optimism! We could all use a little of that lately, right?

North End's John Areano Runs Marathon

John Areano of Endicott Street finished the Marathon for Camp Kesem, bringing in \$11,000 for the charity!

Camp Kesem is for the young children of Cancer patients, helping with giving them a reprieve.



Francisco, Carmen, Rosemary, Matt, Erin, Karen, "John Areano", Marina, Michele and Adiel
(Photo by Michele Morgan)