

## DIGITAL DEBUTS

### ALPHA VIDEO

(\$5.98 DVD)

#### DARK MOUNTAIN (1944)B&W 88/1/2

D: William Berke. Robert Lowery, Ellen Drew, Regis Toomey, Eddie Quillan, Elisha Cook, Jr., Ralph Dunn. 56 mins.

Normally mild-mannered supporting thesp Toomey supplies the noir elements as smoothly brutal racketeer Steve Downey in an otherwise slender and sloppy B thriller, the first from the indie unit Pine-Thomas for Paramount Pictures. Toomey shines as a smiling sociopath who can charm the figurative pants off unlikely new bride Kay's (Drew) hick family during a nightclub meet and greet, then excuse himself to drop a fatal crate on a snooping cop and plug a pair of untrustworthy confederates in the course of a single busy night. Refusing to play Steve's twisted game, Kay seeks shelter at the titular locale, a national park supervised by rather sappy forest ranger Don Bradley (Lowery), the upright fellow she'd earlier rejected in favor of her fugitive hubby. When Steve barges in on Kay's cabin hideout, Toomey goes into a reasonably convincing unshaven Bogie act, pacing, chain-smoking and barking out idle threats. Unfortunately, **Dark Mountain** is otherwise done in by rushed plotting, thin characterizations and, most damning of all, corny would-be comic relief supplied by Don's dopey underling Willie (Quillan) and his trick-happy dog. Still worth catching for Toomey's tough turn.



### ARROW VIDEO

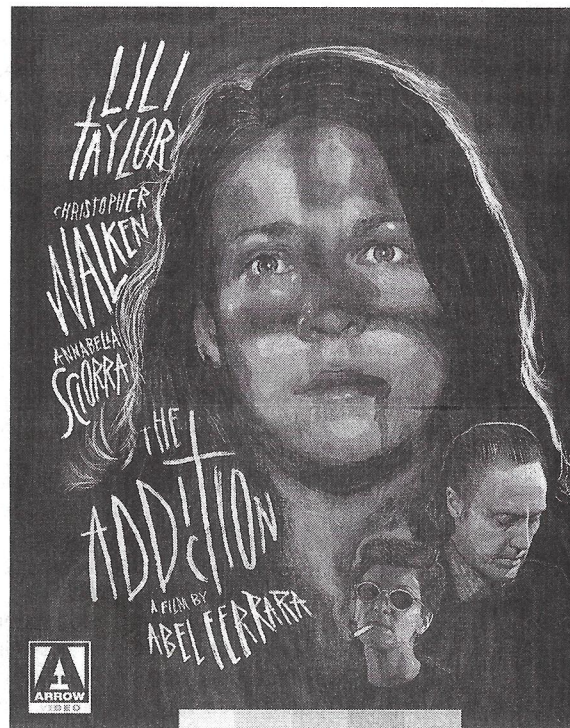
(\$39.95 Blu-ray) 6/18

#### THE ADDICTION (1995)B&W 88/8

D: Abel Ferrara. Lili Taylor, Christopher Walken, Edie Falco, Annabella Sciorra, Paul Calderon, Fredro Starr, Kathryn Erbe. 82 mins.

Set in and around Greenwich Village's New York University, **The Addiction** stars a game but baffling Taylor as Kathleen Conklin, an embittered grad student prone to waxing obvious via frequent apoplectic, apocalyptic rants re the world's sundry injustices. One night Kathleen is brutally beaten and bitten by equally attitudinal street vampire Casanova (Sciorra). Soon after, our sour antiheroine is talking her stuffy professor (Calderon) into shooting heroin, then nips his neck, along with fellow students Jean (future **The Sopranos** star Falco) and an anthropology major (Erbe) as well as strangers of all stripes. In the vampire vision of erstwhile NYC mean-streets specialist Ferrara (see also his brilliant **Bad Lieutenant** and **Ms. 45**) and scripter Nicholas St. John, the bites don't prove fatal but transform their recipients into surly bloodsuckers. Walken has a showy role as Peina, a veteran vampire who volunteers a few inside tips to Kathleen while, like nearly everyone else in this mouthy movie, spouting Philosophy 101-type tidbits. Characters and motivations seem murky and arbitrary throughout this rage-choked exercise, but you have to credit the ever-offbeat Ferrara and St.

John with at least having the courage of their conniptions. Taylor, meanwhile, went on to engage in another antisocial downtown-tude rampage as hostile lesbian writer, anarchist and would-be assassin Valerie Solanis in Mary (**American Psycho**) Harron's fact-based **I Shot Andy Warhol** (MGM). Oddly, **The Addiction** followed hot on the fangs of yet another black-and-white Fun City vampire chiller, Michael Almereyda's **Nadja** (VS #18), featuring Peter Fonda as Van Helsing. Arrow Video opens its vaults and veins for a plethora of **Addiction** extras, including a fresh Ferrara commentary shared with biographer Brad Stevens, the new documentary **Talking with the Vampires**, with Ferrara, Taylor and other participants, additional cast and crew interviews, the archival doc **Abel Ferrara Edits The Addiction**, and more.



### KINO LORBER FILMS

(\$24.95) 4/18

#### BAD COMPANY (1995)88/8

D: Damian Harris. Ellen Barkin, Laurence Fishburne, Frank Langella, Michael Beach, Gia Carides, David Ogden Stiers. 108 mins.

At first glance, **Bad Company** would appear to be just another standard-issue mainstream suspense, but director Harris and writer Ross Thomas harbor a deeper agenda, one executed with admirable precision. While their basic plot may be fairly routine, they employ it to draw us into an ultra-cool, emotionally detached moral wasteland populated by characters who, while spanning an inclusive gender, age and ethnic spectrum, are uniformly lacking an essential human dimension—the ability to experience the slightest flicker of empathy—that serves as both professional virtue and fatal flaw. Ex-CIA agent Nelson Crowe (Fishburne) joins a team of smoothly ruthless corporate enforcers run by fellow former government op Vic Grimes (Langella), who's in turn assisted by equally viperous Margaret Wells (Barkin, one of the screen's most memorable distaff sociopaths). It's Crowe's apparent mission to bribe a debt-riddled judge (Stiers) into voting in favor of corrupt industrialist plaintiff Walter Curl (Spalding Gray, in a quirky, petulant perf), whose pollutants have killed or deformed dozens of innocent kids. As various plots and counterplots unfold, it becomes clear there's no one to root for here (not, at least, until very late in the game). The thesp's tightly controlled turns—Fishburne and Barkin continue to breathlessly conspire even during sex (!)—make **Bad Company** a viewing experience as compelling as it is chilling. Extras on Kino's Blu-ray include an audio commentary by director Harris.

—The Phantom