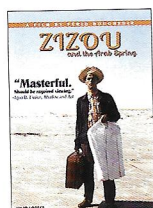


the question why Bird pointing his camera ally after building his Francesca. But he does, into an ensemble soap am Greene (who rises ke Hemsworth, Gaia mer, and others. When these characters begin final stretch, they are e-rolling than insights.

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odeon Network feature cre computer-animat- The petite protagonist "bug" Bailey (voiced by s been encouraged by her imagination. That ok, since the youngster agical amusement park collection of "splendifer- ons that she adds to by s to its creative director, ut, who runs the place al-minded wild boar rcupine buddy Steve, a s, and a wacky blue bear into hibernation mode. r (Jennifer Garner) falls abandons her imagina- o discover that Wonder l days due to her neglect, ver by hordes of monkey June must rediscover a o join with her animal ts former glory, and get news, needless to say, children to follow their sage, but *Wonder Park* ad- making June more pushy e, the place she creates is nor are the animals par- which perhaps explains director Dylan Brown was ate conduct), none of the uld take credit as director. F. Swietek)



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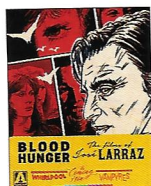
sible cinematic undertaking. But somehow director Férid Boughedir imaginatively brings these seemingly oil and water elements together to make a successful comedy that is also a thought-provoking socio-historical look at the driving forces behind the Arab Spring from a Tunisian perspective. The story follows Zizou (Zied Ayadi), a jobless young drifter who migrates from a bleak windswept town to the big city of Tunis to try to secure some sort of economically viable future for himself. His attempts at gaining employment eventually lead him to a job installing satellite dishes. And through this line of work he finds himself in more than a few offbeat situations. But his life really changes when he manages to obtain a girlfriend. Little does Zizou know, however, that this relationship will lead him to a front-row seat at the soon-to-be fiery uprisings taking place in Tunis and all across the Arab world. Through the oddball meandering character of Zizou, Boughedir effectively shows how social upheaval can sweep up everything in its path, even the most reluctant, apathetic, or apolitical people, charting one man's microcosmic political awakening within the macrocosm of an entire region dealing with the growing pains of nascent democratic change. Highly recommended. (M. Sandlin)

## Classic Films

### Blood Hunger: The Films of Jose Larraz ★1/2

Arrow, 3 discs, 265 min., not rated, Blu-ray: \$99.95

Spanish-born director José Larraz is best known for his British horror film *Vampyres* (1974), one of the more interesting slices of 1970s vampire Eurotica, which is included in this three-film set. Larraz rewrites Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu's 1872 novella *Carmilla* to make his bloodsucking lovelies the restless ghosts of lesbian lovers (played by Marianne Morris and Anulka) who are murdered while making love in their shadowy castle. Larraz adds a few poetic flourishes—blood dripping down pale faces, clouds crawling past a castle—but more importantly he gives the living-dead girls a genuinely passionate relationship and a zest for nightlife even while piling on the exploitative nude scenes. *Vampyres* is a minor classic with a dreamy sense of horror and a delicious conclusion and is easily the most famous of the films compiled here. The other two entries are both centered on artists and models and erotic triangles. *Whirlpool* (1970) is a plodding sexploitation movie that takes frequent breaks for nude photo shoots and seduction scenes but fails to make anything of its central mystery and lacks the style of *Vampyres*. *The Coming of Sin* (1978) is more hallucinatory—starring non-actors who were

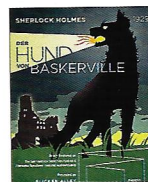


apparently cast more for their looks—and is filled with dreams, premonitions, and mind games, and it also features more softcore porn. Cult movie fans may appreciate the loving attention given to these erotic thrillers but they are hardly landmarks of foreign cinema. The extensive extras include audio commentaries, new and archival cast and crew interviews, behind-the-scenes featurettes, a bonus short film, image galleries, and a booklet. Not a necessary purchase. (S. Axmaker)

### Der Hund von Baskerville

★★★

Flicker Alley, 66 min., not rated, Blu-ray/DVD Combo: \$39.99



Produced in Germany in 1929 with an international cast and a rich expressionist visual style, *Der Hund von Baskerville* is the last silent Sherlock Holmes film ever made and the first to bring out the defining friendship between Holmes and Watson. American actor Carlyle Blackwell plays Holmes as a serious but good-natured genius and George Seroff is his affable friend and loyal ally, Dr. Watson. The duo attempt to protect Henry Baskerville (Livio Pavanelli), whose family members are dying

off amidst rumors of great German character plays Jack Stapleton—of young Beryl (Betty figure who grows even Henry begins courting aptation directed by R liberties with Arthur ginal story (there are h tunnels, and diabolica more faithful than earl Blackwell is a fine Holm trademark deerstalker brotherly affection for V a hit in Europe but was U.S. and was long thou discovered and now re damaged footage was s reduction where possib an inventive and effi and text where necessi film for Sherlock Hol be welcomed by silen include an earlier 1914 of *Der Hund von Basker* spy gadgets, and cra have nothing to do wi featurettes on Doyle process, and a booklet historian Russell Mer (S. Axmaker)



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