

Entertainment reviews

DVDS, BOOKS & GEAR



01 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE SONY PICTURES

This lil' movie stirred up quite a storm, as it should have. The question of the existence of demons and the spiritual realm is all the more relevant in our materialistic, post-modern society. Adapted from true circumstances in Germany (with a young woman named Anneliese Michel), the movie portrayed instead a US context (a rural community, a state college, and a city courtroom), which is seemingly easier to relate to for US audiences. Laura Linney's portrayal of the defense attorney, Erin Bruner, was done quite well, showing her wrestling with the whole notion of this unseen realm (even though she was defending a priest who was accused of negligent homicide and "pushing old superstitions on a mentally sick girl" with his church-approved exorcism ritual). The ultimate question of "do you believe?" is woven into the very fabric of the movie and its plot, and the decide-on-your-own approach that the film makers took is commendable. As a courtroom drama, it works. As a spine-tingling suspense film, it works just as well. Combining the two was a surprising success. *Doug Van Pelt*



02 ELIZABETHTOWN PARAMOUNT

Cameron Crowe never ceases to deliver human drama in a realistic and up-close magnification that pokes fun at all the warts of normalcy that inversely makes you proud of your identity. That and a great rock soundtrack. This one underscores the value of family from our generation's eyes. *DV*



03 TOLERATE THIS WARNER REPRIS VIDEO

Standup comic Brad Stine wears his conservative heart on his sleeve in this pontificate-a-little, laugh-a-lot 80-minute performance. In an age where political liberals bemoan a "conservative media bias" and point to Fox News, Stine clearly offers a non-PC alternate view. World class pro, yet half funny. *DV*



04 ROLLING THUNDER & THE GOSPEL YEARS HWY61

The period of Dylan's triptych of overtly gospel albums gets a balanced overview. The between-song verbiage alongside comments by clergy, journalists and the complaints of fans coming out of shows that weren't expecting to be preached at hold equally countervailing power. *Jamie Lee Rake*



05 THE VISITATION FOXVIDEO

Due to the last Peretti adaptation, *Hangman's Curse*, I had terribly low expectations for this movie. But it's a much better story and comes across like a good USA Network TV movie. Unlike a priest in another movie, the pastor here (played by Randy Travis) has no problem exorcising a demon. *DV*



06 NIGHTY NIGHT BBC/WB

Much BBC comedy and drama (like *The Office*) is snide, sarcastic, and teasingly dark. Such is this television series that pits a terminally ill husband with his wayward wife eager to replace him with the married man next door. The caricatures are outrageous and chuckle-inducing, but fail to really engage. *DV*



07 WALK THE LINE FOXVIDEO

This'n slaps a big ole smile on the face 'n' goose bumps on the arms. What a joyous journey through the Man in Black's life. The struggle of the sinner in love with God is really explored with honesty in both Johnny and June's lives. The Director's Commentary is worthy and adds a ton of insight, also. *DV*



08 ANALYZING WHITE AMERICA SHOUT!

Paul Mooney's attempt at standup falls flat. Despite his impressive resume, this low budget uncensored DVD is short on laughs. Mooney, a writer for Richard Pryor, Eddie Murphy, and Dave Chapelle, takes on everything from 9/11 and Jerry Springer, to O.J. with excessive use of the N-word. *Lee Haley*

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08
SPIRITUAL RELEVANCY (%)	100	80	100	100	100	70	100	30
OBSCENITIES	2	6		2		4	9	260
SCENES OF GORE	1							
NUDITY / SEXUALITY						8		