

BY KATHERINE MONK

**MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE III  
(TWO DISC COLLECTOR  
EDITION) ★★★½**

Yes, it was the best of the *Mission: Impossible* movies to date, but it still cost Tom Cruise his production deal with Paramount. The problem wasn't the movie — a combustible blend of high-octane action and thrilling friction between Cruise and villain, Philip Seymour Hoffman. The problem was Cruise, who was at the nadir of his popularity as he courted Katie Holmes in a style borrowed from *The Bachelor*.

A few months after the ugly memories of couch-jumping and other unpleasantness, the film looks even better than it did on opening day. Cruise finds great chemistry with his male leads, and even manages to cook up some spark with love interest Michelle Monaghan as his character is forced to suffer through the abduction of his young wife. Great stunts, a good story and wonderful performances from the ensemble make Cruise more palatable — but he's still the film's biggest liability.

DVD features include a making-of featurette that unveils the intricate details behind the stunts, as well as some good chit-chat with director J.J. Abrams. Other special features include audio commentary, deleted scenes, tribute montage, *Inside the IMF*, *Scoring the Mission*, a look at makeup effects and more.

**LOUDQUIETLOUD: A FILM  
ABOUT THE PIXIES**

★★★★

Watching a band break up can be as good, if not better, than a round of ultimate fighting. But watching a band get

back together after a few years of estrangement is really the stuff documentary filmmakers dream about in the hours before Christmas morning. If you're not a Pixies fan, chances are you won't get the same thrill as a Doolittle-lover, but you'll still be drawn into the drama of Steven Cantor and Matthew Calkin's documentary that follows the cult band as it picks up the pieces and heads back on tour after more than a decade of hostility.

Featuring incredible access to the band that inspired Kurt Cobain to write *Smells Like Teen Spirit*, *LoudQUIETloud* investigates what pulled the band apart, and revises the myth of hipster cool as everyone emerges as a slight headcase suffering from huge bouts of low self-esteem. If you thought being a Pixie looked like fun, think again. These are some of the unhappiest and most insecure people you'll ever see. Great human moments, absolute candour as well as excellent live performance footage make this impossible to resist. DVD features include bonus scenes such as scoring the film with Daniel Lanois, Steve Albini and *Girls with Insurance*, *Midterm Break*, *Sigur Ros*, *A Music Shop with Kim* and *Listening to WJUL Radio Session*.

**IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE  
— 60TH ANNIVERSARY  
EDITION ★★★★★**

It's a signature piece of warm and fuzzy movie magic from director Frank Capra, but *It's a Wonderful Life* would have gone nowhere if it hadn't begun with the possibility of death. George Bailey, Jimmy Stewart's depressive would-be Christmas suicide victim, embodies so many of our everyday fears and worries, there's something cathartic in watching him find the courage to