



SpongeBob Squarepants—The Complete 3rd Season

This three disc set is jam packed with funny things. Disc 1 includes "SpongeBob On Duty" and it's like about SpongeBob seeing Larry the lifeguard with the white stuff on his nose. So then SpongeBob gets ice cream for his nose and people think he's a lifeguard but he doesn't know that being a lifeguard means saving lives. Larry leaves the beach to go to the tanning salon and Patrick goes swimming but gets butt cramps and SpongeBob has to save him but he can't swim so he gets a row boat and goes out to him but Patrick rips it apart and SpongeBob falls in the water and they're both drowning. Then Larry comes back and walks into knee deep water and pulls them out.

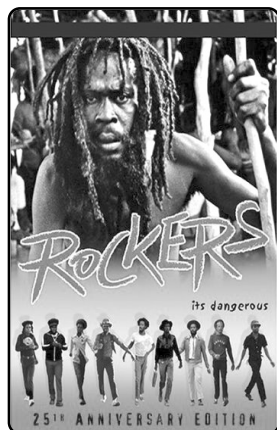
Disc 2 features "SpongeBob B.C." and it's not a dis on Christ, it stands for "before comedy." They're like in ancient times and SpongeBob's pet snail Gary is humongous before comedy. But after comedy he's as big as SpongeBob's head.

"The Lost Episode" on disc three was funny. SpongeBob wants to fly with the jellyfish so he tries to build an airplane and he makes like a bat suit or something but nothing works. So he gives up and one day after he took a shower he was drying his hair and someone called on the phone so he put the hairdryer in his pants and they blew up. He floated around town and did favors for people. The people took advantage of SpongeBob's floating powers and SpongeBob fled to JellyFish Fields to fulfill his dream, but the angry townspeople threw stuff at him to pop his pants. He fell to the ground and while the people were burying his pants no one noticed SpongeBob being lifted off the ground by his jellyfish friends and flying with ease.

And there are cool special features on all three discs too. We love SpongeBob.

—by Zachary Casazza (age 10)

—by Serena Casazza (age 13)



Rockers 25th Anniversary Edition/Music Video Distributors

The film that influenced The Bad Brains to grow dreadlocks gets its due with this killer 25th Anniversary Edition. Like its predecessor *The Harder They Come*, this one tells a tale of the righteous men and wicked hustlers. In this case a who's who of reggae legends including: Gregory Issacs, Big Youth, Robbie Shakespeare, Jacob Miller, Dillinger, Dirty Harry, and Winston "Burning Spear" Rodney just to name a few. And everybody plays themselves, which is amazing considering the performances are totally natural and unforced.

Leading man (famous reggae drummer) Leroy "Horsemouth" Wallace decides to take business into his own hands when he scrapes up enough bread to buy a Skate (motorcycle) and becomes a record distributor throughout Jamaica to help give the power back to the artist as well as feed his hungry family. He also, along with help of his natty brethren, act as Rasta Robin Hoods against the Mafia element on the island.

Okay, so the plot isn't the most original or the most complex but it doesn't matter, it's the sheer authenticity and vibe that *Rockers* radiates that will have you glued to the screen. In many ways *Rockers* is *thee* definitive reggae movie, with its awesome soundtrack and exotic scenery giving us outsiders a fly-on-the-wall look at what it must have been like to be in Jamaica during reggae's Golden Age. And if that's not enough, the extras are worth the price of the DVD alone. They include: director commentary, interviews with both director and producer, original theatrical trailers and radio spots, music videos, interactive Rasta Patios glossary and biographies, poster gallery, video remastered from 35mm print, remastered audio, and the 16 page color booklet



Family Guy Presents Stewie Griffin: The Untold Story

including the entire Rasta Patios glossary. Quite simply, *Rockers* is one of the coolest music flicks of all-time whether you dig reggae or not.

—by Rick Kutner

Family Guy Presents Stewie Griffin: The Untold Story/Fox

"Family Guy's" had a pretty fantastic rebound into pop culture over the last couple of years—a virtually unprecedented one, at that. Being the first show to ever return to the airwaves based on their DVD sales, they've now embraced that medium with their first full-length feature and avoided the theaters entirely.

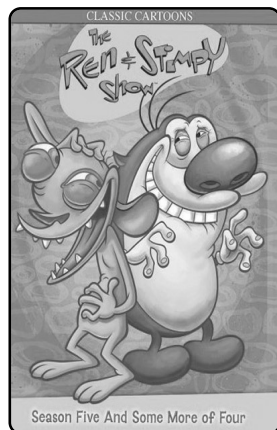
An easy, teasing synopsis is that Stewie sees a man closely resembling him on television who he believes must be his father, as Peter is not exactly the most predictable genetic pool. Stewie sets off to California where he meets him and learns who he really is.

But that's not the hilarious part. The hilarious, ever-quotable scenes are woven in-between, of course. A taste: Lois gets wasted and curses like a sailor; Peter gets an op-ed talk segment on the Quahog news; Chris and Meg learn how to attract the opposite sex from their parents, and that's all in the first half hour.

The writers of the show are still very much on top of their comedic games, but at times the 88-minute feature feels like three "Family Guy" episodes strung together rather than a cohesive narrative. But it's a cartoon, so who cares? The pacing is excellent, the material is engaging and "Family Guy" fans will love it. Hell, I do.

Stylistically, with the inclusion of all the favorite minor characters, constant cross-referencing and deliberate culture jabs, the full-length is just like the show, but bigger. What could be better than that? Highly recommended.

—by Patrick Slevin



Ren & Stimpy: Seasons Five And Some More Of Four

"Ren & Stimpy" had the unfortunate stigma of ending with a whimper. By this era, creator John K. was out of the picture and the seasons were so delayed the detriment on the show's popularity was unrecoverable. So, *Season Five And Some More Of Four*, the last of the original series, gets the needed revisiting that only the DVD market can provide.

The result is a little uneven, but still far surpasses the cartoons of its era. Even though it is significantly less edgy, the set contains excellent episodes like "Reverend Jack Cheese," "A Scooter For Yaksmas," "O! Blue Nose," "Aloha Hoek," etc. These episodes are far funnier in hindsight. The fifth season was very nearly a "lost" season and in some respects may very well be because of the lack of Nickelodeon support.

What ultimately makes *Ren & Stimpy* classic, in spite of its many eras, is the insane creativity that held over from its original heyday, something that could not be destroyed even with an entirely new team. Typifying this is the collusion of the Spumco and Games lineup for commentary; a great gesture that pleases the ravenous fans of the early episodes.

Not just a set for completists, *Seasons Five And Some More Of Four* is a welcome edition to anyone's DVD collection. Some may tell you only the first set is really worth it, but everybody needs more Ren & Stimpy. Even Stinky Whizzleteaks.

—by Patrick Slevin

Nina's Tragedies (Ha-Asonot Shel Nina) Wellspring Media

Fourteen-year-old Nadav (Aviv Elkabets) harbors a secret crush



on his voluptuous Aunt Nina (Ayelet July Zurer). But the sensitive boy keeps this fact to himself, owning up only to the private journal where he religiously records his feelings regularly.

Then, after newlywed Nina's husband is tragically murdered by a suicide bomber, Nadav is asked by his mother (Anat Waxman) to move in with her sister during these difficult days. Of course, the already-smitten adolescent eagerly complies with the request to comfort the object of his infatuation, and the new living arrangement only further fuels the fantasies triggered by his raging hormones.

The situation starts out smoothly enough at first, with Nina and Nadav developing a fast friendship which benefits them both. However, after a brief period of mourning, the plot thickens when the attractive widow decides to begin dating again.

The presence of other males makes the suddenly-possessive Nadav jealous, plus it turns him into an obsessive Peeping Tom. Meanwhile, Nina, oblivious to her naive nephew's yearnings, seems to be flaunting her unbridled sexuality in his face.

This is the basic framework of *Nina's Tragedies*, winner of 11 Israeli Academy Awards, including Best Picture. Brilliantly written and directed by Savi Gavison, this melodrama of Shakespearean proportions delves deeply into a myriad of motifs from taboos to tragedy, from coincidence to fate, and from lust to loss, all set against the unmentioned backdrop of the Palestinian-Israeli tensions.

A shooin to land on this critic's annual Top 10 List.

Excellent. In Hebrew with subtitles. Running time: 110 minutes. DVD Extras: Theatrical trailer, featurette, trailer gallery.

—by Kam Williams

TRUSTKILL VIDEO ASSAULT VOL. 2/Trustkill

ALFRED HITCHCOCK PRESENTS: SEASON 1 Universal

DR. JOHN: LIVE AT MONTREAL/Red

JIMINY GLICK IN LA LA WOOD/MGM

CREAM: ROYAL ALBERT HALL/Rhino

THE DALAI LAMA ON LIFE AND ENLIGHTENMENT Hannover House

COUNT DUCKULA/KOCH

YNGWIE MALMSTEEN'S CONCERTO FOR THE ELECTRIC GUITAR Eagle Vision

SOUTH PARK: THE COMPLETE SIXTH SEASON/Paramount

ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT: SEASON TWO/Fox

NINJA TERMINATOR/Red Dist.

THE BEST OF THE CHRIS ROCK SHOW/HBO

THE FRESH PRINCE OF BEL-AIR: COMPLETE SECOND SEASON Warner Bros.

FAT ALBERT & THE COSBY KIDS/Ventura

LEGENDARY JERRY COLLECTION/Paramount

TOM & JERRY: THE FAST AND THE FURRY Warner Bros.

BATMAN BEGINS Warner Bros.

HE-MAN & THE MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE: SEASON 1 VOL. 1/BCI Eclipse

LAND OF THE DEAD Universal

THE LEGEND OF ZELDA: THE COMPLETE SERIES/Sony

MAD HOT BALLROOM Paramount Classics