

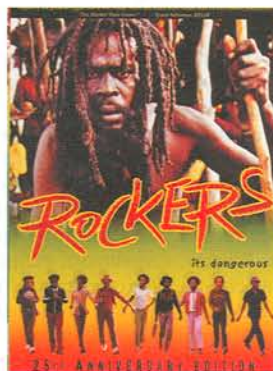
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**Vans Triple Crown of Surfing 04**  
 (Epitaph)

Each winter, a seven-mile stretch of beach on the north shore of Oahu, Hawaii plays host to the Vans Triple Crown of Surfing. This event attracts some of the best surfers in the world, who compete in a rigorous six-week competition. This hour-long DVD tells the story of 2004's event, which featured some of the most intense—and dangerous—waves in the world. The camera work is breathtaking, beautiful and in-your-face. Featuring phenomenal footage and interviews with champion pro surfers like Kelly Slater, Sunny Garcia, and Gerry Lopez, it's clear that these athletes are addicted to the adrenaline rush of gliding through a 10-foot wave. They have the balls to surf where many have died, but it's the combination of bravado and humility that keeps these guys going. Bonus disc includes a CD featuring music from eight Epitaph artists.



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**Style Wars**  
 (Public Art Films)

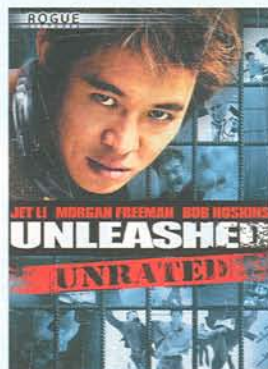
Filmed in New York City in 1982 (when hip-hop culture was in its infancy) by director Tony Silver and partner-producer Henry Chalfant, *Style Wars* documents the artists who helped craft the urban visual language of graffiti. As DJs, MCs and B-boys honed their skills in the parks, writers took aim on the MTA and used subway cars as their moving canvases. Mayor Ed Koch cited graffiti as a "quality of life" issue and eventually stamped it out by using Draconian policing methods, but *Style Wars* confirms the importance of this multi-racial movement. The bonus disc contains interviews conducted in 2002 with many of the artists profiled in the film, as well as tributes to deceased icons, Dondi and Sky 147, outtakes, and 32 artist galleries. No film better documents the birth of a movement that continues to inspire young people all over the world.



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**Rockers: 25th Anniversary Edition**  
 (MVD)

Directed and shot on location in Jamaica in 1977 by Theodoros Bafaloukos, *Rockers* is often hailed as the greatest reggae movie ever made. This 25th anniversary edition DVD tells the story of a hustling reggae musician named Horsemouth (portrayed by real-life reggae musician Leroy "Horsemouth" Wallace) and his struggle to succeed amid a local crime boss' control of Kingston. While the film's plot is somewhat flimsy, the remastered scenes of ganja-smoking Rastas and the beautiful island look fresh. More importantly, *Rockers* is full of appearances and performances by world-class reggae artists such as Third World, Peter Tosh, Burning Spear, Gregory Issas, Maytones, and Inner Circle. Bonus features include

commentary by Bafaloukos, music videos, original trailer and advertisements and—my favorite—an interactive Rasta patois glossary and artists biographies. Yeah, *mon!*



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**Unleashed**  
 (Rogue Pictures)

For a movie that was intended to show that Jet Li is more than a martial arts master, *Unleashed* falls drastically short of the mark. Li plays Danny, a man who was raised as an attack dog by an English gangster (Bob Hoskins). In trying to portray this brainwashed killing machine, Li stares emptily into the camera, like a poor dull robot that can do high kicks. Through a series of events, Danny escapes and meets a blind piano tuner Sam (played by Morgan Freeman), who takes him in. Because Danny was raised in a cage by a sweaty fat man, he falls in love with the first girl he sees, Sam's stepdaughter (Kerry Condon). When his boss objects, Danny has to fight for his life in order to protect his new way of life. Though the fight sequences are entertaining, writer Luc Besson's story takes a feeble stab at film noir. The DVD includes boring behind-the-scenes footage, as well as a crappy video of Massive Attack's "Attaboy" and the Rza's very forgettable "Unleash Me."

