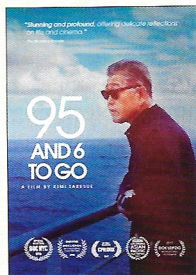


95 and 6 to Go ★★½

(2018) 85 min. DVD: \$145: high schools & public libraries; \$345: colleges & universities. New Day Films. PPR. Closed captioned.

A haunting, home-movie-style documentary by Kimi Takesue about her nonagenarian grandfather Tom, *95 and 6 to Go* initially presents the seemingly resilient, quick-witted Tom exercising with enviable stamina, and then puttering around his Honolulu home, clipping coupons, and looking at family photographs. Tom is a realist of few words, a survivor many times over who knows that little can be done to mitigate loss. Takesue, unseen behind the camera, asks him questions about his life, as well as his opinion of a screenplay she's written—one with obvious echoes of his personal experiences. Tom speaks soberly about the fiery death of his mother when he was two, his childhood loneliness, the love and companionship he enjoyed with his late wife, and the death of a daughter who was in her 30s. "You grieve but you have to go forward," he says, somewhat unconvincingly. About Takesue's script he is touchingly creative, advising her on her story's ending, on a title, and even music (hearing Tom sing "The Way You Look Tonight" is a real treat). Takesue's personal video-journal film offers profound testimony about the ways of the world, while introducing viewers to a modest gentleman who knows the score. Extras include audio commentary by Takesue and a stills gallery. Highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (T. Keogh)



adaptation of the W. Somerset Maugham spiritual-seeker novel *The Razor's Edge*, which mystified fans and critics. So, does Murray ever sit down with the questing filmmaker for an enlightening dialogue? In the end it doesn't really matter, Grasshopper. This fun, offbeat documentary is recommended. Aud: C, P. (C. Cassidy)

Father's Kingdom ★★½

(2018) 94 min. DVD: \$129: high schools & public libraries; \$349: colleges & universities. DRA. Good Docs (avail. from www.gooddocs.net). PPR. SDH captioned.

One of the most controversial figures of the 20th-century Civil Rights movement was a preacher who called himself Father Divine. At the height of his fame in the 1930s and '40s, he claimed to have brought one million followers to his highly distinctive theological message, which included the insistence that he was God incarnate. Lenny Feinberg's documentary traces the unlikely rise of this colorful character from the ramshackle African American sharecropper community in Maryland where he was born as George Baker, up to a position of moral and political power in Harlem. Throughout his ministry, Father Divine ran afoul with the law; many of these clashes were the result of the repressive Jim Crow environment, although Father Divine's often erratic behavior certainly contributed to some of his legal woes. He also advocated for racial harmony and attracted a large number of white followers, which was highly uncommon for the era. Although he passed away in 1965, Father Divine still maintains a following of elderly loyalists who gather at the Pennsylvania estate where he lived out his final years. Feinberg wisely refrains from passing judgment on the fanatic frenzy that his subject inspired,

and he is a bit vague about certain areas of Father Divine's religious teachings and the depth of his wealth. But overall this is a fascinating tribute to an iconoclastic figure most often overlooked in civil rights history lessons. Highly recommended. [Note: this is also available on home video for \$14.99 on DVD and \$16.99 on Blu-ray from Gravitas Ventures.] Aud: C, P. (P. Hall)

Gurumul ★★½

(2017) 96 min. In English & Yolngu Matha w/ English subtitles. DVD: \$320. DRA. Film Platform (avail. from www.filmplatform.net). PPR.

Blind Aboriginal musician Geoffrey Gurumul Yunupingu is the subject of Paul Damien Williams's documentary, which explores not only his subject's brief and unusual career but also the cultural differences between his Yolngu people of Australia's extreme northeastern Arnhem Land and the outside world. The film is structured in terms of the relationship between Gurumul and his collaborators: musician Michael Hohnen, who discovered him in Galiwin'ku, Gurumul's hometown on Elcho Island, and Mark Grose, who joined Hohnen to start a record label and became the manager of Saltwater Band, in which Gurumul was lead singer. The purity of his voice stunned listeners, leading to success on disc sales and in live performances. But his disconnect from the commercial music scene, however, was intense, as evidenced in his obvious incomprehension doing a duet with a patronizing Sting, and his abrupt disappearance at the beginning of a proposed American tour (a later one on a more intimate scale was a triumph, however). A sense of the cultural divide that Gurumul experienced is provided by comments from his parents and other relatives, particularly an aunt who talks not

only about her nephew's childhood but also of the emphasis on community over the individual that characterizes Yolngu society. According to Yolngu norms, visual and aural representations of a dead person should be erased from public exhibition because that individual has become part of a continuum with his ancestors, so special dispensation had to be granted by family elders after Gurumul's untimely death in 2017 to allow for his image and voice to be preserved in this film. A fascinating ethnographic profile, this is highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (F. Swietek)

The Rest I Make Up ★★★

(2018) 79 min. DVD: \$89: public libraries; \$395: colleges & universities. Women Make Movies. PPR.

Filmed over a span of approximately 10 years by rookie filmmaker Michelle Memran, this is an endearing snapshot of Cuban-American playwright Maria Irene Fornés, the recipient of nine Obie Awards and a Pulitzer Prize finalist. The friendship and affection between Memran and Fornés are evident as the documentary follows the playwright in her New York City neighborhood and other locales, including Cuba where she reconnects with family. Early on, Fornés visits her doctor where she reveals her struggles with memory. As the film progresses, her dementia becomes more noticeable, even if her vitality and sparkling personality never wane. Vintage footage and photos documenting some of her avant garde plays and TV interviews briefly touch on her longstanding career, as do comments from other playwrights, including Edward Albee and John Guare. When trying to recall how she met the filmmaker, Fornés briefly discusses her romantic relationship with Susan Sontag. Even if the documentary seems to skip all over the place, Fornés, whose works are described as shocking, tender, and delicate, always remains at the center. And while the intent here is not to profile dementia, viewers watching the vibrant playwright trying to remember her recent trip to Cuba or identify her sister at a family dinner in Miami can't help but see the effects of her faltering memory. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (S. Beauregard)

The Revelation of Lee "Scratch" Perry ★★★

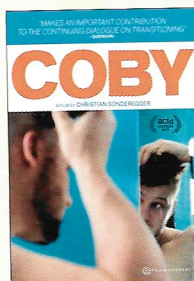
(2018) 101 min. DVD: \$12.95. Music Video Distributors (avail. from most distributors).

Lee "Scratch" Perry has been and remains a titan of music production since the late 1960s. A Jamaican architect of the reggae and dub sounds beloved by international fans and artists, Perry recorded his own hits under the pseudonym the Upsetters during the 1970s. At the same time, he brought his distinctive touch as producer to other reggae pioneers (Bob Marley and the Wailers, Junior Murvin) and artists in the

Coby ★★★

(2018) 81 min. DVD: \$24.95. Film Movement (avail. from most distributors). Closed captioned.

Twenty-three-year-old Suzanna Hunt is a small-town Ohio woman who embarks on a lengthy medical, psychological, and emotional journey to transition into Jacob Hunt. That journey is not a linear affair in the interesting if sometimes also self-absorbed documentary *Coby*, which shuffles different chapters in Suzanna/Jacob's life as captured in a running video diary spanning years. Telling the story out of chronological sequence actually enhances the essential humanity and courage of the film's subject, as we see him as both a frustrated teen who can't wait for transition medication and surgery, and as a handsome young man sprouting a close-cropped beard and recording his ever-deepening voice. Filmmaker Christian Sonderegger wisely explores the subtle complexities of Jacob's adjustment to change (including his awareness that testosterone therapy has altered his experience of empathy for others). Viewers also meet Jacob's progressive parents, colleagues (he's an EMT), and his girlfriend, who all add to his heartwarming story. Where one's eyes might glaze over a bit is Sonderegger's fixation with lengthy impressions of Jacob's body: what does his elbow look like in a close-up mirror reflection? What about his hair flapping in the breeze? This becomes an annoying tic in an otherwise illuminating film. Extras include deleted scenes. Recommended, overall. Aud: C, P. (T. Keogh)



U.K. (the Clash) and the U.S. (the Beastie Boys). Late in his career, Perry recorded his Grammy-nominated 2010 album *Revelation* at his mountaintop studio and home in Switzerland, collaborating with British producer and engineer Steve Marshall. The latter is also a filmmaker who brought in a cinematographer to capture footage of Perry singing and chanting to mostly pre-recorded instruments for this mystical, prophetic album. Marshall also films Perry performing some monk-like rituals around his studio, and he entices the reggae pioneer to sit for an interview about life during end times (which Perry believes are here) and the cleansing power of his music. Some of this insular profile is a bit monotonous, but devoted fans will be more than happy to watch Perry putter around. Extras include a bonus interview with Perry. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (T. Keogh)

The Untameable Kirk Douglas ★★★

(2018) 52 min. DVD: \$145; public libraries; \$345 w/PPR: colleges & universities. Seventh Art Releasing.

As Kirk Douglas celebrates his 100th birthday, family and friends pay tribute to his career as an actor, director, and producer in this film written and directed by Hubert Attal. In the opening, Michael Douglas praises his father for his service to his country, patriotism, cinematic achievements, and care for others, while Michael's wife, Catherine Zeta Jones, sings happy birthday to her father-in-law. Narrators—including Kirk himself—share insights on his upbringing, personality, and remarkable career, interspersed with over 20 movie clips from notable films. Kirk's Jewish parents came to the United

States from Russia, changed their name to Dempsey and settled in Amsterdam, NY. Kirk grew up poor, but had determination and dreams; he saved money, earned a scholarship, and put himself through college at St. Lawrence University. After college, he attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, changed his name from Issur Danielovitch Demsky and met stage actress Lauren Bacall, who helped give Kirk his first break by recommending him for a role in the film *The Strange Love of Martha Ivers* featuring Barbara Stanwick. Success followed success as he starred in and produced many films during the Golden Age of Hollywood, including: *Champion*, for which he was nominated for an Academy Award; *Lust for Life*, playing Vincent van Gogh; and his signature titular role in *Spartacus*. He also devoted his life to helping others, contributed funds to many charities, and was named the Goodwill Ambassador for the State Department. An engaging profile of a beloved film star, this is recommended. Aud: P. (T. Roof)

Video Librarian Online

Visit Video Librarian Online (www.videolibrarian.com) for more reviews during March and April, including: *The Al Purdy Songbook*, *Bloodlines: The Art and Life of Vincent Castiglia*, *Hobbyhorse Revolution*, *Into the Hinterlands*, *Nimble Fingers*, *Qi Gong: Mindfulness in Motion*, *Return to Cuba*, and much more!

Series Update

The following titles are new additions to series previously recommended. Titles are available from most distributors unless otherwise noted.

Octonauts: Reef Rescue (90 min., DVD: \$9.99) is the latest compilation of episodes from NCircle Entertainment's computer-animated series following the titular underwater rescue team as they travel to locales from the Amazon River to the Mariana Trench. See review of *Octonauts: 15 Underwater Adventures* in VL-11/16.



Newly available from PBS is **Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood: School Time Fun** (90 min., DVD: \$12.99), following young preschooler Daniel Tiger as he enjoys a school field day activity, nature walk, and visit to the library in this computer-animated spin-off from *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. See review of *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood: Life's Little Lessons* in VL-5/14.

Scooby-Doo! And the Curse of the 13th Ghost (82 min., DVD: \$19.98) is Warner's latest entry in the long-running series, here following scaredy-dog Scooby and his Mystery Inc. friends as they help old friend Vincent Van Ghoul add the last ghost to the Chest of Demons collection. See review of *Scooby-Doo! And the Gourmet Ghost* in VL-11/18.

PAW Patrol: Pups Save Puplantis (95 min., DVD: \$14.98) is the newest title from Paramount and Nickelodeon's computer-animated series following puppy patrollers Marshall, Chase, Zuma, Skye, Rubble, and Rocky through six escapades, including "Pups Save a Wiggly Whale" and "Pups Save a Sunken Sloop." See review of *PAW Patrol* in VL-7/14.

Exploring the stories behind several Shakespeare plays, **Shakespeare Uncovered: Series 3** (350 min., DVD: 2 discs, \$34.99) marks the 2018 third season of the BBC and PBS series and features hosts including Helen Hunt on *Much Ado About Nothing* and F. Murray Abraham on *The Merchant of Venice*. See review of *Shakespeare Uncovered* in VL-7/13.

