



**TRANSFORMERS ON  
(4K Ultra HD/Blu-ray/Digital)**  
*Paramount Home Ent.*

*Transformers One*, arrives from Paramount Home Entertainment. *Transformers One* is the untold origin story of OPTIMUS PRIME and MEGATRON. Better known as sworn enemies, they were once friends bonded like brothers who changed the fate of Cybertron forever. The first-ever fully CG-animated *Transformers* movie, *Transformers One* features a star-studded voice cast, including Chris Hemsworth, Brian Tyree Henry, Scarlett Johansson, Keegan-Michael Key, Steve Buscemi, with Laurence Fishburne, and Jon Hamm. Directed by Academy Award®-winner Josh Cooley, *Transformers One* boasts character designs and action sequences created by the renowned artists of ILM that are outstanding.

**CHARLEY CHASE  
AT HAL ROACH:  
THE LATE SILENTS (1927)**  
*(Blu-ray) Kit Parker Films*

Both Charley Chase and the Hal Roach Studios Golden Era was in the late 1920's, and 1927 was the year Charley Chase was the Lot of Fun's Number One star. His films from that period, directed by his brother James Parrott and supervised by Leo McCarey, were not only some of his best but were also some of the greatest comedies from the silent era. Most of these classic shorts have never been seen since their original release, and this set combines materials from film archives and private collections from around the world to bring these shorts together for the first time, all with wonderful accompaniment from Dr. Andrew Simpson, commentary tracks by noted Hal Roach Historian Richard M. Roberts, and restoration by the experts at CineMuseum LLC. Fifteen great comedy shorts like *Many Scrampy Returns*, *What Women Did For Me*, *The Way of All Pants*, and *US*, show Charley Chase as a comedy talent at the top of his game, with interesting co-stars like Lupe Velez, Jean Arthur and Eugene Pallette, as well as Hal Roach regulars like Anita Garvin, Charley Hall, Noah Young, and even Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy. Special Features include three bonus short subjects and an extensive photo gallery.

**TOXIC CRUSADERS:  
THE SERIES  
(Blu-ray)**  
*Troma Films*

A group of mutants fight against the pollution-loving alien Dr. Killehoff in the fictional city of Tromaville, led by Toxie, a nerd-turned-superhero. Watch the classic Saturday morning cartoon like never before! Based on Troma Films' cult classic smash *The Toxic Avenger*, *The Toxic Crusaders* animated series follows the adventures of that lovable deformed creature of superhero size and strength, Toxie! Along with his new friends Yvonne, No-Zone, Head-Banger, and Junkyard, watch as Toxie stands up for truth and justice against the evil Dr. Killehoff and his hordes of heinous henchmen in this complete series collection!

**SLICE OF AMERICA:  
CHARRED IN THE  
FLORIDA SUN (DVD)**  
*What Were We Thinking  
Films*

A true fish-out-of-water story, or should we say, a pizza-out-of-Connecticut story, about a New Haven-native with a love for the town's beloved 'apizza' (pronounced: ah-beetz), who does the impossible by bringing the charred, thin-crust, best pizza in the world to southern Florida. In *Slice of America*, episode one, Charred in the Florida Sun, Jimmy Fantini opens Fantini's 'New Haven Style' Apizza in the small coastal town of Stuart, Florida. With the support of loyal Connecticut snowbirds jonesing for a slice of home, and a rave review from One Bite's Dave Portnoy, Fantini's thrives and becomes a hub for pizza in Florida, with pizza-lovers driving a hundred miles or more for just a taste of one of Jimmy's pies. Director Gorman Bechard, the filmmaker behind the documentary *Pizza A Love Story* (and 20 other feature-films), and host/pizza historian Colin M. Caplan lead us on this amusing journey of pizza love and perfection. You will laugh, learn about the origins of pizza, and fall in love with Jimmy's passion. But mostly you will leave hungry, wanting to experience Fantini's New Haven Style Apizza for yourself.

**CHEERLEADERS' WILD  
WEEKEND (Blu-ray)**  
*MVD Rewind Collection*

Mix a busload of voluptuous cheerleaders with an embittered ex-football star, turned kidnapper, add plenty of action and passion, and you get a *Cheerleaders' Wild Weekend*. A group of comely and curvaceous cheerleaders are kidnapped by a vengeful jock (Jason Williams) and held for ransom in an isolated hideout. Plotting an escape, these shapely victims let by Debbie Williams, use their hidden charms to entice their captors. But eventually kidnappers and victims are drawn ultimately together in exhilarating excitement while plotting to steal the ransom money and foil the cops. It's an adventure like no other ... and it could only happen on a *Cheerleaders' Wild Weekend!*

**FABULOUS THUNDERBIRDS  
- LIVE IN HOUSTON**  
*(Blu-ray)*  
*Cleopatra Ent.*

The Fabulous Thunderbirds captured live in concert at the Warehouse in Houston in 2006, released for the first time in Blu-ray format. Founded in 1974 by harmonica player/vocalist Kim Wilson and guitarist Jimmie Vaughan, The Fabulous Thunderbirds were originally just a Blues band, before their sound evolved to include Cajun, Soul and Rock influences. This rare concert captures Kim and the boys in all their glory, as they rip through a smoking, live set, including their biggest hits. Song list includes: Slow Down - Postman - Rock With Me - Got To Get Out - Painted On - Two Time Fool - Wait On Time - Wrap It Up - Pretty Baby - Tuff Enuff - Marked Deck.

The time has come, the walrus said,

**TO TALK OF MANY THINGS  
of shoes and ships and sealing wax of cabbages and kings**

by Sal Giarratani

**PANEL RULES  
BOSTON PD ERRED IN  
FIRING OFFICER  
OVER JANUARY 6 TWEETS**

The state Civil Service Commission has ruled a Boston police officer who was fired over social media posts concerning the January 6 attack on the Capitol, ruling that the posts were protected speech and criticized the department for reopening an investigation into him that appeared to be based on "erroneous" facts.

According to a *Boston Globe* story, little changes for Joseph Abasciano, the retired officer, since he was injured in July 2020 and is now considered totally disabled. He has been receiving accidental disability benefits. Because of this, the commission did not order his reinstatement.

"The Commission's decision finds the Appellant's tweets to be protected speech and are not just cause for his termination," the panel ruled.

Abasciano, a Marine veteran, was fired in March 2023 and in October he filed a federal lawsuit against the City of Boston and police department for violating his First Amendment rights.

His name has now been cleared by the commission's ruling and his firing vacated and what a great Christmas present this must feel like to him and his family. I say good luck and God speed to Joe Abasciano's federal lawsuit too. The commission stated that in ruling against the city over the firing had nothing to do with the opinions expressed by the police officer but only with his constitutional right to speak his piece.

In this case, justice has prevailed and THANK GOD for that.

**GUESS THESE 2 GUYS  
WON'T BE INVITED TO  
MAR-A-LAGO  
ANYTIME SOON**

"In our nation's 246-year history, there has never been an individual who is a greater threat to our republic than Donald Trump."

— Dick Cheney, former VP

"In no arena of American affairs has the Trump aberration been more destructive than in national security."

— John Bolton, former  
National Security Advisor

**SEE YA AROUND  
IN THE NEW YEAR**

God has given all of us here reading this another year of

life to begin. Use it well for yourself and those you love. It is a gift to wake up in the morning. Use your days well. Welcome 2025 with open arms. Live it the best you can too. The older we get, the more we appreciate the time we have on this planet. Never forget that.



Sal Giarratani and Heather O'Brien of East Boston caught up with each other at the Eastie Elves Toy Drive event recently at the Hyatt Regency at Logan Airport

**Gerry D'Ambrosio**

*Knows What this Holiday is All About*

by Sal Giarratani

You know, last year I got myself invited to Atty. Gerry D'Ambrosio's Annual Food Drive and Holiday Celebration and I must say it was one of the best Christmas Parties I have ever attended. It was held at Spinelli's up on Route 1 and I can still remember how much fun I had and it was all for a good cause, a Food Drive for the many out there who are not as lucky as many of us have been. Remembering those around us in need of basic necessities like food reminds us of our commonality with all we share this world of ours with. We all share this life of ours together. We are all human beings and as we are reminded at this time of year, all children of our God. Feed the hungry is one of the beatitudes we learned back in childhood. Feed the hungry, etc. Gerry does that every year and so many help him do so especially right here in the City of Revere.

However, this year for whatever reason, I forgot about Gerry's annual time and missed it. I won't be doing that again next year. What a great way for folks to end a long-tired year than by

celebrating the goodness inside each of us. I am sure that Kowloon's this year was just as packed as the celebration I attended on the other side of Route 1 a year ago.

Once again, hundreds attended and thousands of nonperishable and canned foods were donated at this annual time and food pantries in Salem, Revere and Everett were well stocked for the many out there who depend on these food pantries to survive one person at a time and one family at a time.

Kudos to attorney Gerry D'Ambrosio who never forgets where he came from and seeks to help those who are truly in need not only at this time but year-round. Like I said, we are all traveling on one road here on this planet. We need to look out for each other. Gerry and so many who work with him never forget and make this holiday season one of joy for everyone who needs joy. Which is all of us.

Merry Christmas, Seasons Greetings, Happy Holidays, etc., etc., etc.

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to shelter U.S.-born children of illegal immigrants as part of a mass deportation plan. Homan reportedly recognizes that we cannot detain any U.S.-born children, which has now brought up the idea of halfway housing.

Homan has been urging illegal migrant parents to "self-deport" and "leave on their own" with their children and added, "I mean if you choose to have a U.S. citizen child while in the country illegally, you put yourself in that position."

**Suit's Shrink Arap  
Versus Arby's**

Arby's may have "the meats," as their TV ads state, but a woman living in Queens NY has a beef. In a class-action lawsuit a woman is accusing the fast-food chain of downsizing its French fries and drinks without

lowering prices or alerting customers. According to the lawsuit Arby's "continues to sell its fries and beverages in smaller sizes" the suit alleges

Arby's has not responded to inquiries from the media over the company's decision to create new serving sizes starting reportedly when the chain eliminated kiddie-sized fries and drinks and started calling them the new small size and thus apparently the need for a lawsuit to apparently strengthen things out.

**Yellen Sends Capitol Hill  
Warning on Debt Limit**

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has informed Congress that if lawmakers do not act to raise or suspend the nation's debt limit as soon as January 14<sup>th</sup>, she would most likely need to begin using "extraordinary

measures" to prevent the United States from defaulting on its debt.

The debt limit was suspended in June 2023, and that suspension is scheduled to expire on JANUARY 2nd, forcing measures allowing the federal government to keep paying its bills. In 2021 Yellen called the debt limit "destructive" and said it should be "eliminated." Trump previously has suggested that the borrowing cap was not necessary and within the last 10 days called it the "Debt Ceiling guillotine" and said it should either be extended or terminated before he takes office.

**End Quote**

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.