



**THE FAMILY I HAD (Blu-ray)  
Filmrise + MVDvisual**

A mother recalls how her brilliant teenage son came to shatter their idyllic family through one horribly violent and shocking act. Now left to pick up the pieces, the survivors test the boundaries of their newly defined reality in this moving true crime exploration of the nature and limits of familial love.

**AN AFGHAN LOVE STORY  
(DVD)**

**Film Movement**

In Kabul, Mustafa a handsome waiter, charms a pretty young law student named Wajma. The pair begin a clandestine relationship, ever mindful of the societal rules that forbid intimacy. But when Wajma discovers she is pregnant and Mustafa refuses to commit to marriage, she is left to face the terrifying consequences of their actions on her own. The volatile situation quickly turns violent when Wajma's father enters the picture, and is compelled to take action. But how will he direct his anger, and who will ultimately bear the brunt of his rage?

**COBY (DVD)**

**Film Movement**

In a small town deep in the American Midwest, Suzanna begins a gender transition to become a boy, named Coby. Throughout this period of transformation, Coby and his loved ones must confront their own preconceived notions of gender and sexuality while facing difficult decisions and prejudice. Combining excerpts from Coby's video diary with candid, heartfelt interviews from his closest friends and family, Christian Sonderegger's debut feature is an intimate and sensitive look at this timely subject.

**CHARLIE STEEL -  
REVENGE - THE COMEDIANS  
(DVD)**

**IndiePix Films**

IndiePix Films delivers three genre classics in the recently launched "Retro Afrika Collection," featuring the forgotten and discarded classics of African cinema. From light-hearted comedies, high-octane action films and provocative race dramas, these films were met with opposition from the apartheid government, but are now newly restored, and have rarely been seen outside their borders. **Charlie Steel (1984)**

— When Diamini's daughter, Dudu, is held for ransom, he calls on Charlie Steel, an old friend and renowned private investigator. Steel attempts to infiltrate the kidnapping ring, but is exposed by a vicious gang member. A touch of love might help take down the gang, but at what cost. **Revenge (1985)** — In the Wild West of old Africa, a peace loving homesteader moves to a vacant farm in search of a new life. His hopes are shattered when his son is badly beaten, and a gang of ruthless thugs murder his wife. Left for dead in the dirt, he's revived by an ex-gunslinger/good Samaritan whose hermitage in the hills is the perfect place for training rescued victims in the art of revenge. **The Comedians (Circa 1980)** — Fortune-seeking hustler Ace

Bona borrows his friends' magic ring to make himself a wealthy man, only to find that his greed is uncontrollable. Obsessed with the idea of possessing the ring for himself, he hires a group of thugs to rob his friend of the ring. Meanwhile, his friend has a trick up his own sleeve, and counters with a curse.

**DICK CAVETT SHOW:  
AND THAT'S THE WAY IT IS  
+ INSIDE THE MINDS OF  
(DVD)**

**S'more Ent.**

**And That's The Way It Is**

— Dick Cavett has been host of his own talk show since 1968, in a variety of formats and on a number of television and radio formats. These releases were taken from episodes that aired between 1968 through 1996, and feature some of the best-known news reporters of the era, including Walter Cronkite, Dan Rather, Tom Brokaw, Barbara Walters, Mike Wallace, and Diane Sawyer. Over the years, Cavett welcomed roughly 10,000 guests, from film, theatre, sports, music, literature, art, and politics, and sometimes even a notorious underworld figure. **Inside the Minds Of** — These releases were also aired from 1968 through 1996, and feature some of the wittiest, edgy comics of the era, including Robin Williams, Bobcat Goldthwait, Richard Lewis, and Gilbert Gottfried, in a four-show collection. Throughout its history, *The Dick Cavett Show* was a frequent stop for comedians. Cavett interviewed generations of the greatest comic minds dating back to vaudeville, with guests that included Groucho Marx, Jack Benny, Bob Hope, and George Burns. He continued through the television age with Lucille Ball, Phil Silvers, and Dick Van Dyke. Cavett's conversations with comedians are particularly insightful, given Cavett's own career as a comedian and comedy writer.

**JANE FONDA:  
LEAN ROUTINE +  
LOWER BODY SOLUTION  
(DVD)**

**Lightyear Ent.**

**Lean Routine** — The twelfth fitness tape in Jane Fonda's series gives users an hour of dance aerobics in a new setting. It is designed to be done in 20, 40, or 60-minute segments to fit all levels of fitness and users' busy schedules. The ultimate fat burning workout includes: Low Impact/High Energy Aerobics; Every Fitness Level; Aerobic Interval Training and 13 original songs. Plus, a 12-minute segment on nutrition — what to eat, how much to eat, and how you can make it improve your diet and actually eat more while losing weight. **Lower Body Solution** — Works the lower body in two ways, 35 minutes of low-impact aerobic dance with some step, then 25 minutes of targeted conditioning for fat burning, cardiovascular conditioning and lower body toning, led by expert Jane Fonda's workout instructors. Featuring the use of the aerobic step as an exercise option. A 25-minute one-on-one floor routine led by Jane Fonda for shaping and toning all major muscle groups of the lower body.

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

**NINETY MINUTES  
INTO THE PAST**

On Christmas night, I ended up in a relaxing mode watching the *Justice Network* which ran a marathon of old *Dragnet* episodes that ran over 60 years ago in black and white. The episodes were from 1952, '53 and '54; when I was just a kid. I was so young back then that all these old TV episodes were all brand new to me. One show had Martin Milner, remember him from *ADAM-12*? Well, in the show I watched, he was playing a high school student selling dirty pictures and books. I kid you not. The bad guys who used the high schoolers were hunted down by Sgt. Joe Friday and eventually hit the slammer with six months in jail.

As I sat on my bed eating a large cup of creamy coffee ice cream, I felt like a kid again, which was a great Christmas present. I was five or six again and loving every moment of it. The marathon ended and, alas, I was back to real time.

**MARK WAHLBERG  
COMES TO EASTIE**

A few weeks back Mark Wahlberg brought his latest movie still in production for some location shooting up near Orient Heights MBTA station. During a break, he caught up with Alejandra Escobar and Nathaly Ceron and here's a great selfie of the trio outside Angela's Restaurant on Bennington Street. The movie *Wonderland* should be coming



out later in 2019. Be on the lookout.

**ANOTHER YEAR OF LIFE  
FOR THE TOWN**

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and now it is on to a brand New Year and new start in 2019. Maybe 2018 was your best year ever, but I do believe the best is yet to come. Stay positive, don't look back, plug ahead and do the best you can with the gift of life you have. We can always be better. Try, just try not to regress.

This was my first "Grandpa Christmas" and there is something special about that. I always remember my Uncle Nealy (Harrington) at Christmas time. He was always so upbeat and stayed active right up to the evening he passed away.

He always had a smile on his face, had a great Irish wit and took control of his time knowing it was a gift to be shared with others. I named my daugh-

ter Nealia after him. I think of him always as a source of inspiration.

He was my writing mentor. He was published all over the place as I am today. He had his opinions and I have mine. We shared our writings with each other.

Next year, he will be gone 40 years which is another way of saying how fast time goes by. Happy New Year!

**SEASON OF MIRACLES**

The above was the front-page headline in the December 22<sup>nd</sup> *Boston Herald*. A full page photo showed the damage done to a Quincy woman's car as she was driving along Beale Street in Wollaston. Had the tree fallen 3-5 seconds later, her friends would have been going to her wake and funeral. She said she felt blessed after her car met a large falling tree.

I find this another example of what my mother always believed. Fate is all around us. When it's your time, it's your time and when it's not, it's not. It makes you think about your life and never worrying about the end. You're still on the stage of life. Everything else in its time!

**FINALLY,  
ANOTHER MIRACLE**

I was recently visiting family over in Roslindale and stopped for gas just outside Roslindale Square. The price was \$2.29 per gallon. Now that's a real Christmas miracle, too. Happy New Year to all!

## North End Against Drugs

Basketball Bonanza — Wildly Successful



North End Against Drugs held its Annual Basketball Bonanza at the Nazzaro Community Center at the end of November. Approximately 50 boys and girls of all ages attended and had a fun-filled evening of various basketball activities. All of the participants received a North End Basketball Bonanza T-Shirt, pizza and soft drinks

and a night full of wild basketball fun. Awards were given in various categories. N.E.A.D. board members John Pregmon, Mike Giannasoli, Maria Lanza and Steven Siciliano (also the new Nazzaro Center Director) along with volunteer dad Derek Mathieu spent a Friday evening with all of the kids ensuring that all of them had a great time.

NEAD and the Nazzaro Center continue to work together to provide wholesome activities for the youth of the North End.

Special thanks go out to Representative Aaron Michlewitz for donating the shirts, Senator Joe Boncore, Rocco's Cucina for donating the pizza and Mike Giannasoli for donating the trophies and the basketballs.

