



DVD Extra

Is that DVD you've got your eye on really worth the investment? Should you wait a few months until the "Special Edition" hits shelves? Or wait a few months after *that* for the "Director's Cut Definitive Edition"? DVD Extra lights the way.

April 20 DVD roundup

By [Harry Thomas](#) on Apr 16, 10 09:42 PM | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

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Big release this week: "Avatar." However, it has **NO EXTRAS**, so you might just want to rent it for now and wait until the Special Edition comes out in November. Also big this week: "Crazy Heart," "The Lovely Bones," "The Young Victoria."

Usual rules apply: synopses are taken from the press releases, snarky commentary is extra, and preview links go to Apple.com. And just in case you were wondering, the DVD prices are the listed retail prices. You can get them cheaper if you buy at discount stores or online.

[Avatar](#)

Fox, 162 minutes, PG-13 (Release date: April 22 - Earth Day)

DVD: \$29.98

BD: \$39.99

I don't really have to describe this one, do I? Well, just in case: James Cameron returns after 12 years of waiting for the technology to catch up to make his big statement about the greed of mankind. The big bad Earth corporation wants to mine a precious substance from the planet Pandora. Paraplegic Marine Jake (Sam Worthington) gets the chance to walk again when he operates a 9-foot tall avatar that allows him to pass as one of the N'avi, the peaceful inhabitants of the planet. He's initially doing recon for the grizzled general (Stephen Lang) on the N'avi, but he grows to like the natives, especially the feisty Neytiri (Zoe Saldana). Also stars Sigourney Weaver. No extras on the discs, but there's plenty of stuff online. And a special edition release is scheduled for November, so you might want to just rent it now and buy it later.

[Crazy Heart](#)

Fox, 111 minutes, R

DVD: \$29.98

BD with digital copy: \$39.99

Jeff Bridges won Best Actor for his portrayal of Bad Blake, a boozy, broken-down country singer who seeks redemption and a comeback with the help of Jean (Maggie Gyllenhaal), a journalist. His protégé, Tommy Sweet (Colin Farrell) offers him that shot, but can he subdue his healthy ego to make it work? Also stars Robert Duvall as his favorite bartender. Adapted from the novel by Thomas Cobb. Extras: deleted scenes, alternate music cuts. BD adds a few more deleted scenes, interviews.

[Deadly Impact](#)

MGM, 96 minutes, not rated, \$22.98

Cop Thomas Armstrong (Sean Patrick Flanery) joins the FBI after an assassin (Joe Pantoliano) targets him; now he has to find a way to stop him before he threatens an entire city. Unrated release probably means that it didn't garner enough enthusiasm for at theatrical release. No extras listed.

[Falcon Crest: The Complete First Season](#)

Warner Bros., 882 minutes, 18 episodes, 4 discs, \$39.98

1980s prime-time soap opera about the Northern California wine country and the rivalry between the Channings, headed by Angela (Jane Wyman) and their rivals, the Giobertis. No extras listed.

[Final 24](#)

MVD Entertainment, \$14.95 each

Documentary series about the last 24 hours of the rich and famous before their deaths. Sounds rather morbid to me, but hey, we do live in a celebrity-obsessed culture. Scheduled for this month: Janis Joplin, Keith Moon, Nicole Brown Simpson, Gianni Versace.



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Community

Frank Zappa: The Freak-Out List

MVD Entertainment, 60 minutes, \$19.95

The legendary musician posted a listing of his musical influences on the inside cover of his first album, then proceeded to make music using it as a road map. No extras listed.

[44 Inch Chest](#)

Image Entertainment, 95 minutes, R

DVD: \$27.98

BD: \$35.98

Colin Diamond (Ray Winstone) has just learned his wife (Joanne Whalley) has been unfaithful. With the help of his friends - all thugs - he kidnaps his wife's lover (Melvil Poupaud) and a kangaroo court begins. Also stars John Hurt, Ian McShane, Tom Wilkinson, Stephen Dillane. Extras: commentary, interviews, making-of featurette, epilogues.

Handy Manny: Big Race

Disney, 45 minutes, \$19.99

The four-fingered handyman (I'm not the only one who has noticed, right?) and his talking tools help Kelly's nephew Elliot get his race car ready for a big race. However, Elliot gets cold feet at start time, and Manny has to fill in for him. No extras listed.

Homecoming

Paramount, 88 minutes, R, \$19.99

When her ex-boyfriend Mike (Matt Long) takes a new girlfriend (Jessica Stroup); Shelby (Mischa Barton) decides it's time to go "Fatal Attraction," or perhaps "Saw." No extras listed.

Jordon Saffron: Taste This

Synergetics, 87 minutes, R, \$19.98

Mockumentary about Jordon Saffron (Sergio Meyers, who also directs) is a big-time Hollywood chef with a "secret ingredient" that makes women swoon. But too much partying and not enough cooking leads to the loss of his girlfriend (Rachel Hunter), his restaurant, his cooking show partner (Steve Schirripa), and his sense of taste. He goes back to his dad's pizza place in Chicago to find out where everything went wrong. No extras listed.

[The Lovely Bones](#)

Paramount, 121 minutes, PG-13

DVD: \$19.99

BD: \$29.99

When 14-year-old Susie Salmon (Saoirse Ronan) was murdered, her unfinished life was left behind. But she's stuck in limbo, so she has to help her father (Mark Walberg) catch her killer and protect her family before moving on. Peter Jackson's long-awaited return to the director's chair (after "King Kong" and the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy) didn't sit too well with critics and some fans; they felt he took some wrong detours in the adaptation of Alice Sebold's popular novel. No extras on the DVD, but the BD has a 15-part production diary.

Merlin: The Complete First Season

BBC Video, 13 episodes, 5 discs, \$49.98

New version of the Arthurian legend focuses on the sorcerer (Richard Wilson). Extras: making-of featurettes, video diaries, photo galleries.

Minority Report

Paramount, 146 minutes, PG-13, \$29.95 (BD debut)

Steven Spielberg's adaptation of the Philip K. Dick short story has Tom Cruise as a cop in the year 2054. He works for the Department of Pre-Crime, which uses mutants that can see into the future to predict murders before they happen. Cruise has to stop them before they happen. Things take a twist when he's named one of the pre-crime suspects. Six of the extras are in HD, so they might be new.

The Rolling Stones: Rare and Unseen

MVD Entertainment/Wienerworld, 64 minutes, \$14.95

Just what the title says: rare and unseen footage of the World's Greatest Rock & Roll Band. No extras listed.

Spot: Where's Spot? 30th Anniversary

BBC Video, 9 episodes, \$9.97

British cartoon series based on the lift-the-flap books comes to DVD. Extras: reading of one of the books, two interactive games.

[Surviving Crooked Lake](#)

Neoclassics, 89 minutes, PG-13, \$19.98

Four 14-year-old girls take a summertime canoe trip to the North Woods, where Murphy's Law has a score to settle. I'm sure there's some enticing flesh, but not too much gratuitous nudity. Seems to be a favorite on the film festival circuit, which isn't really saying much. No extras listed.

[The Young Victoria](#)

Sony, 105 minutes, PG

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DVD: \$27.96

BD: \$34.95

Emily Blunt has the title role of England's longest-ruling monarch, who decided to establish her authority over those who ruled in her stead. She depended on the love of Prince Albert (Rupert Friend) for strength to do so. Winner of Best Costume Design (natch). Extras: deleted and extended scenes, five featurettes.

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