

DVD SNAPSHOT

The Flash

▶ HOME

▶ ABOUT US

▶ INTERVIEWS/SPECIAL FEATURES

▶ LINKS

▶ CONTACT US

▶ SEARCH

INFO@DVDSNAPSHOT.COM



Mike Spring - Editor
DVDsnapshot

@rich11 Yeah, that's what I thought. Sigh...
2 minutes ago

@rich11 Hmm, ok, well, that's better. Is it a Hardcover? Wonder how much cheaper a TPB version will be (if they even do one).
7 minutes ago

Gen 13: The Animated Movie. One of the only public screenings ever, at a limited-attendance ComicCon event! #sawintheater
9 minutes ago

@urbanbohemian Agreed, 100%!
11 minutes ago

@rich11 Hmmm... not sure how I feel then. If it was EVERYTHING, I might be convinced, but...
11 minutes ago

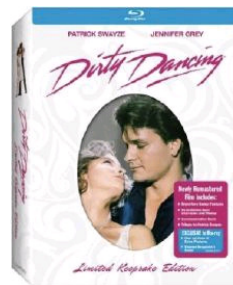
twitter

Join the conversation

SHARE

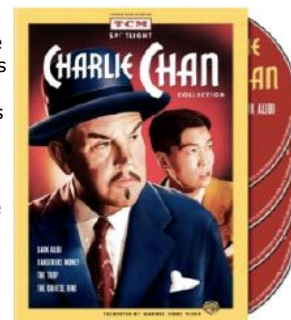
© Copyright 2009 DVD Snapshot. All Rights Reserved.

A Weekly Round-Up of New & Noteworthy DVD & Blu-ray Releases



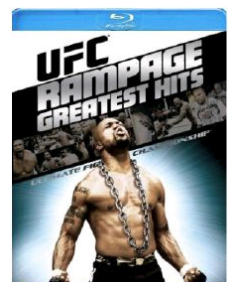
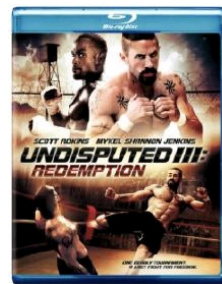
Normally a release that's as high quality as the **Dirty Dancing: Limited Keepsake Edition** would warrant its own review. The problem is, new versions of **Dirty Dancing** are kind of like an annual event at this point. And while this clearly the biggest and best version yet, it's really hard to keep finding new things to say about this film. So what you get is a nice box set -- available on Blu-ray and DVD -- that includes the film completely remastered, along with a commemorative book, a new tribute to Patrick Swayze, and more bonus features than you can shake a stick at. Exclusive to the Blu-ray are the **Dirty Dancing: Live in Concert** full video (a huge bonus for fans from back in the day), the film's script, and a featurette called *Dancing to the Music*. In addition, you also get two commentary tracks, seven featurettes, cast interviews, outtakes, a new photo gallery, the trailer, a trivia track, three music videos, multi-angle dance features, screen tests, deleted & alternate scenes, and a digital copy of the film. Wow!

Next up, we have TCM's **Charlie Chan Collection**, the first Chan set presented by Warner Brothers. Collecting four of the classic detective films, this box set is noteworthy as it features the last film starring Sydney Toler as the erstwhile Chan. You get three films starring Toler, and then Roland Winters debuts in the fourth and final movie in the set, **The Chinese Ring**. The other three films in the set are **Dark Alibi**, **Dangerous Money**, and **The Trap** (which is Toler's last.) All four of these movies are only available in this DVD collection, but there are no extra features included. Still, this is a must have for fans of the Chan.



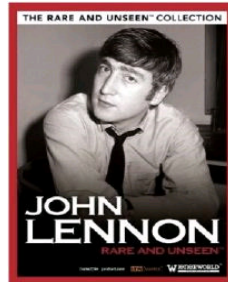
A trio of UFC-related movies have been released, and all three of them are available on Blu-ray as well as DVD. First up we have **Circle of Pain**, the next in the line of films produced by popular clothing line Tapout. While the headliners are MMA fighters like Kimbo Slice and Frank Mir, the film also stars actual actors like Dean Cain and Bai Ling. It's not a great film, but I always like to see Dean Cain pop up, even if it is in direct-to-video fare such as this. The Blu-ray offers up a slight audiovisual upgrade over the DVD, but the disc comes with a number of extra features, including: commentary, behind-the-scenes, interviews, on-set choreography feature, Tapout promos, and a trailer gallery.

Undisputed III, meanwhile, is a direct-to-video sequel to a pretty not-so-memorable direct-to-video movie, and it has little to do with the first film (or the second), but these aren't really movies predicated on plot, are they. Where **Undisputed III** shines is in its fight choreography and editing style. This is actually a pretty high octane, action-packed flick with a real identity to it. The editing really enhances the action here, and while the film still isn't utterly fantastic, it's pretty decent for a throw-in action film. It looks and sounds pretty good on Blu-ray (with surprisingly sharp imagery and well-saturated colors, plus some real oomph to the soundtrack during the fight scenes), but the extra features include nothing more than a digital copy and a standard DVD edition of the film.



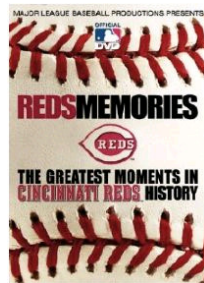
Wrapping up the testosterone-driven portion of the review, we have **UFC: Rampage Greatest Hits**, a quick cash-in on the current A-Team movie in theaters that stars one Quinton "Rampage" Jackson as B.A. Baracus. This is exactly what it sounds like: a greatest hits collections of notable fights from Jackson's UFC career. There are 10 fights on the disc, including two against Chuck Liddell, as well as bouts with Keith Jardine, Wanderlei Silva, Marvin Eatsman, and others. It's hard to gauge picture and sound quality, as they vary from fight to fight (the newest ones fare the best), and sadly the disc doesn't come with any special features, but you do get a solid two hours worth of material.

This nice two-movie collection from Lionsgate includes the two **Three Musketeers/Four Musketeers** movies from 1973 and 1974 that boast impressive casts that include Michael York, Oliver Reed, Richard Chamberlain, Charlton Heston, Faye Dunaway, Christopher Lee, and Raquel Welch. Directed by Richard Lester (of **A Hard Day's Night** and **Superman II** fame), these films were originally supposed to be one super-long film that were then split into two by producers Alexander and Ilya Salkind; the result is an extremely cohesive set of films that don't suffer from the degradation you usually see in sequels. Instead, these films are a lot of fun, not going for out-and-out comedy but certainly achieving a fun, light tone that keeps them lively and enjoyable. Of course, the top notch cast is responsible for a lot of the quality the films have to offer, so fans of any of the actors will be pleased with these films. Be aware that these two movies were previously released back in 2003 through Anchor Bay, and there's nothing new on this set that wasn't on that one. If you don't own that one, however, extra features include an almost-hour-long making-of documentary, a making-of featurette, and a collection of trailers and TV spots for the film.



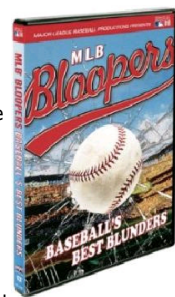
John Lennon: Rare and Unseen is a neat little treat for Beatles fans. You know, I've just about given up on new Beatles releases, because I think we really are running out of new footage of them to find, but this release tries hard to prove me wrong. This disc includes a special aired in 1969 called **Man of the Decade** that apparently hasn't been seen since, plus television clips that haven't been seen since the 70s from **Aquarius**, **Weekend World**, and **Frost**. On top of that, you get commentary from Phil Collins, Len Goodman, and Tony Barrow as they discuss Lennon. There's no music on the disc, nor are there any extra features, but for Lennon fans, at least you do get some material you've most likely never seen before.

Once More With Feeling is a drama with a good cast that just isn't all that great of a movie. It's not a terrible movie, but it's a bit melodramatic at times and never really goes anywhere. I suspect that older audiences might like it, as it deals with family issues (and karaoke!) and is slightly slower paced than younger audiences might like. Chazz Palminteri does a terrific job here, and he's ably supported by Drea de Matteo and Linda Fiorentino, but the movie's low budget, slow pacing, and occasionally uninspired storyline (family matters, the possibility of infidelity, an upcoming wedding... nothing new here) just feel rather pedestrian. The lack of any extra features on the disc doesn't add any value to the proceedings, either.



A couple of baseball DVDs are up next. Now it's no secret that I'm not a huge baseball fan, but DVD is about the only way I'll watch it. I can enjoy a good highlight reel, and in this case I can always enjoy a good blooper reel. **Reds Memories: The Greatest Moments in Cincinnati Reds History** is your basic franchise highlight film; it squeezes 140 years of history into 90 minutes. On top of that, you get eight bonus footage clips that include Johnny Bench's Hall of Fame speech, Pete Rose passing Ty Cobb's hit record, and Ken Griffey Jr.'s 500 and 600th home runs.

Meanwhile, **MLB Bloopers** includes a look at the funny side of the sport, by presenting wacky plays and funny moments from the past 30 years of Major League Baseball. I always enjoy these "follies" on DVD, and there's some pretty funny stuff here. There are also some pretty lame moments, but it's a solid mix of the two. There are eight bonus footage moments, too, including an Orioles music video, fun with mascots, and more.



Finally, we have a nice concert DVD from Chickenfoot called **Get Your Buzz On Live**. I'm sure most of you know by now that Chickenfoot is the latest supergroup comprised of Sammy Hagar, Joe Satriani, Michael Anthony, and Chad Smith, and this disc captures their thundering rock sound in all its live glory. I love a good concert on Blu-ray, and this is a pretty good concert. While I don't know the band's music that well, this is a rock and roll show the way it's supposed to be. Shot in gorgeous HD that transfers well to Blu-ray and with some pretty impressive surround sound, this disc is a must-have for fans of the band. Extra features include interviews with the band, backstage footage, unseen live footage, a photo gallery, and some funny surprise guests showing up. A nice release for hard rock fans.

- Mike Spring
Editor



© Copyright 2010 DVD Snapshot. All Rights Reserved.