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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.

June 29 DVD roundup

By [Harry Thomas](#) on Jun 28, 10 10:54 PM | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

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Not much in mainstream: "Hot Tub Time Machine," "Percy Jackson: The Lightning Thief." Plenty of independent films, though: "Bass Ackwards," "The Crazies" (reboot), "Creation," "Don McKay," "The Flying Scissors," "Pretty Bird," "The White Ribbon." And a few British and American TV series as well.

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.

[Bass Ackwards](#)

New Video, 103 minutes, not rated, \$26.95

Slacker Linas (Linas Phillips) gets kicked off his friend's couch and spurned by his lover, finds a forgotten van on a llama farm outside Seattle, and goes off on a journey east of Great Discovery. Extras: commentary, making-of featurette, deleted scenes, bloopers.

[A Bit of a Do: Complete Collection](#)

Acorn Media, 658 minutes, 13 episodes, 4 discs, \$59.99

Comedy series satirizes British snobbery and class consciousness in a small Yorkshire town when a working class family gets intertwined with a middle-class one through a shotgun wedding. Extras: cast interviews, filmographies.

[America's Test Kitchen: Season 10](#)

PBS, 696 minutes, 26 episodes, 4 discs, \$39.99

50 recipes from the PBS series hosted by Christopher Kimball. Extras: DVD-ROM printable versions of the recipes.

[Ben 10 Alien Force Volume 7](#)

Cartoon Network, 5 episodes, \$14.98

First five episodes of season 3 of the animated hero that can turn into a number of alien superheroes. Extras: two bonus episodes, alien database.

[The Crazies](#)

Anchor Bay/Overture Films, 101 minutes, R

DVD: \$29.98

BD/DVD with digital copy: \$39.98

Reboot of the original George A. Romero horror film about a small town unfortunate enough to have a mysterious toxin enter the water supply. The military has blocked off the town. Unfortunately, that also means the residents who aren't zombiefied as of yet are trapped inside. Extras: commentary, motion comic, five featurettes, photo gallery, storyboards, Easter Egg, screenplay.

[Creation](#)

Lionsgate, 108 minutes, PG-13, \$27.98

Paul Bettany stars as the famed naturalist Charles Darwin who is trying to finish his "Origin of the Species" masterwork, while his enemies try to thwart him and his deeply religious wife (Jennifer Connelly) doubts his theories. Extras: commentary, making-of documentary, 11 featurettes.

[Don McKay](#)

Image Entertainment, 90 minutes, R

DVD: \$27.98

BD: \$35.98

Don McKay (Thomas Haden Church) left town 25 years ago over a terrible mistake he made as a teenager. Now his

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ex-girlfriend Sonny (Elizabeth Shue) calls him out of the blue and tell him she is dying and wants him to come spend her last few days with him. He rushes home to her side, but there's something different about her ... or maybe it's the town. Coen-esque humor is supposed to ensue. Extras: commentary, deleted scenes.

Eureka: Season 3.5

Universal, 438 minutes, 2 discs, \$29.98

Continuing adventures of a small town full of inventing geniuses and the chaos that accompanies them. Extras: deleted scenes, three Podcast commentaries.

The Flying Scissors

Dinosaur, 92 minutes, not rated, \$19.95

Mockumentary about a rock-paper-scissors competition seeks to satirize sports and other mental competitions such as spelling bees. Big hit on the college circuit. No extras listed.

How the Earth Changed History

BBC, 300 minutes, 2 discs

DVD: \$29.98

BD: \$34.99

Interesting look at how the Earth's natural forces changed and shaped human history, from art to industry, religion to war, world domination or collapse. Extras: interview with presenter Ian Stewart.

Hot Tub Time Machine (Unrated)

MGM, 99 minutes

DVD: \$29.98

BD/DVD with digital copy: \$39.99

Four guys (John Cusack, Rob Corrdry, Craig Robinson and Clark Duke) go back to a mountain resort they frequented in their younger days, get into a hot tub and find themselves transported back to 1986, where their possible futures are at risk. Probably better for those who lived through the 1980s. Extras: deleted scenes, four featurettes.

Inbred Redneck Vampires

MVD/SRS Cinema, 108 minutes, not rated, \$9.95

Two vampires are on the run from a vampire hunter and hide out in a small redneck town, where they plan to turn the hicks into their vampire slave army. Gross-out comedy and horror are supposed to ensue. This is a Joe Bob Briggs favorite movie.

No extras listed.

Jennie: Lady Randolph Churchill

Acorn Media, 361 minutes, 7 episodes, 2 discs, \$49.99

1975 BBC miniseries about the lives and loves of Sir Winston Churchill's mother, the American Jennie Jerome (Lee Remick).

Extras: bio of Remick, history of Blenheim Palace, cast filmographies.

Madeline's Great Adventures

Shout! Factory, 132 minutes, 6 episodes, \$12.99

Six more animated adventures of the French schoolgirl and her classmates who never turn down an adventure. No extras listed.

Nova: Mind Over Money

PBS, 60 minutes, \$24.99

In the wake of the recent stock market crashes, the PBS series Nova takes a look at how human psychology and high finance interact with an intriguing experiment that shows how excessive spending choices can overwhelm consumer's abilities to make rational decisions. No extras listed.

Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief

Fox, 118 minutes, PG

DVD: \$29.98

BD/DVD with digital copy: \$39.99

Percy Jackson (Logan Lerman) thinks he's just a dyslexic teenager with ADHD until an encounter with a Fury (winged devil) shows him that he's actually the demi-god son of the Greek god Poseidon. All of a sudden, he's now the central suspect in the theft of Zeus' thunderbolt, and if he doesn't get it back to Mount Olympus in ten days, World War III will begin. Based on the series of books by San Antonio author Rick Riordan and directed by Chris Columbus (the first two "Harry Potter" films). I liked it; it made me seek out the novels (which were better). Extras: 5 extended/deleted scenes, quiz, featurette. BD adds 5 more extended/deleted scenes, four more featurettes.

Predator: Ultimate Hunter Edition

Fox, 108 minutes, R, \$29.99 (BD)

Upgraded BD of the Arnold Schwarzenegger film that has his team of commandos going up against an alien hunter out to collect their scalps. You know the body count will be high. Released in anticipation of the new "[Predators](#)" coming out on July 9. Extras: new digital restoration, sneak peek of the new film, new featurette. Older extras are also included: commentary, text commentary, two documentaries, featurettes, deleted scenes and outtakes, photo galleries.

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Pretty Bird

Paramount, 98 minutes, R, \$22.99

Three would-be entrepreneurs (Billy Crudup, Paul Giamatti, David Hornsby) set out to invent and market a personal rocket belt. Dark comedy is supposed to ensue. No extras listed.

Red vs. Blue: The Blood Gulch Chronicles - The First Five Seasons

New Video, 550 minutes, 100 episodes, 6 discs, \$59.95

Internet video project based on the shooter video game "Halo" quickly turned into a popular series. We'll acknowledge the obligatory video game geek jokes here. Extras: two Xbox mini-series ("Out of Mind," "Recovery One"), commentary, special videos, deleted scenes, outtakes, hidden tracks, character profiles, alternate endings, PSAs, documentary footage, rare clips.

Rem Koolhaas: A Kind of Architect

New Video, 97 minutes, not rated, \$29.95

Documentary on the Dutch architect who designs buildings, writes and does social commentary. Extras: interview with Koolhaas, aerial view of Casa da Musica.

Saving Grace: The Final Season

Fox, 442 minutes, 19 episodes, 5 discs, \$49.98

Third and final season of series starring Holly Hunter as Oklahoma City police detective Grace Hanadarko, a hard-drinking cop who's on her last chance for redemption.

The 13 Ghosts of Scooby-Doo!: The Complete Series

Warner Bros., 286 minutes, \$19.98

Further animated adventures of the Great Dane and that "bunch of meddling kids" that help him solve mysteries. Featuring the voice of Vincent Price, so this one's an older series. Extra: bonus episode.

Truth or Dare: A Critical Madness

MVD/SRS Cinema, 84 minutes, not rated, \$9.95

A.J. McLean of the Backstreet Boys plays a young psycho with a penchant for the game. Shouldn't have been much of a stretch for him. (Sorry, bad joke. Couldn't resist.) Reissue of one of the first independent horror films that went straight-to-video (and that's a selling point?). No extras listed.

Van der Valk Mysteries: Set 2

Acorn Media, 353 minutes, 7 episodes, 2 discs, \$39.99

Second series of murder mysteries featuring Amsterdam detective Simon "Piet" van der Valk (Barry Foster) and his eager counterpart Johnny Kroon (Michael Latimer). Extras: biographies of creator/novelist Nicholas Freeling and Foster.

Visions of New York City

Acorn Media, 77 minutes, \$29.99

Aerial tour of New York City. Includes bonus footage not shown on TV.

Warehouse 13: Season One

Universal/SyFy, 569 minutes, 13 episodes, 3 discs, \$49.98

Two Secret Service agents save the life of the President, then find themselves transferred to Warehouse 13, where the U.S. Government stores all of the weird and strange relics and supernatural objects ever found. Keep an eye out for the box with the Ark of the Covenant, will ya? Extras: gag reel, select episode commentaries, four featurettes, sneak peek at Season 2.

[The White Ribbon](#)

Sony, 144 minutes, R

DVD: \$28.95

BD: \$38.96

Strange accidents in a small Protestant village in Northern Germany take on sinister implications on the eve of World War I. Nominated for Best Foreign Language Film and Cinematography. In German with English subtitles. No extras on the DVD, but the BD has four featurettes.

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