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New on Dvd



By Amy Longsdorf

In stores:

BROOKLYN'S FINEST (2010, Anchor Bay, R, \$30) -- One part "The Shield" and two parts "Fort Apache, the Bronx," Antoine Fuqua's tense drama focuses on three morally compromised cops (Richard Gere, Ethan Hawke, Don Cheadle) dealing with disillusionment, burnout and dire financial straits. Nearing retirement, Gere just wants to stay out of trouble. Hawke shows up at drug busts so he can steal money to finance a bigger home. And Cheadle is so deep undercover he's beginning to sympathize with the bad guys. There's nothing new here but the superb performances, blasting hip-hop soundtrack and street-level grit are

indisputably thrilling. Extras: four featurettes, deleted scenes and Fuqua commentary.

A SINGLE MAN (2009, Sony, R, \$28) -- Colin Firth delivers a career-best performance as a gay professor in '60s Los Angeles hit hard by the death of his beloved boyfriend (Matthew Goode). Sinking into suicidal despair, he goes through the paces of what might be his last day. He teaches a class, receives comfort from a flirtatious student and pours his heart out to one of his oldest friends (Julianne Moore). In his directorial debut, fashion designer-turned-filmmaker Tom Ford supplies style as well as raw emotion. You don't want to miss this one. Extras: commentary by Ford and a making-of featurette.

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (2009, Music Box, unrated, \$30) -- In this Molotov cocktail of a movie, Swedish powerhouse Noomi Rapace stars as a computer hacker who teams up with a crusading journalist (Michael Nyqvist) to solve the mystery of a teenage girl who disappeared from an isolated island. The movie, which is based on Stieg Larsson's bestseller, works terrifically well as a palm-sweating thriller, and it's the eccentric characters and their unpredictable relationships sweep you up and take you away. Extras: interviews with cast members.

THE ECLIPSE (2010, Magnolia, R, \$27) -- Not scary enough to qualify as a ghost story nor romantic enough to make it as a love story, this oddity from Ireland manages to be watchable yet unsatisfying. Ciaran Hinds stars as a schoolteacher who may be haunted by his deceased wife when he begins a flirtation with a suspense novelist (Iben Hjejle) still smarting over an affair with a fellow writer (Aidan Quinn). Director Conor McPherson makes Ireland look both inviting and eerie but with the exception of a couple of jump-out-of-your-seat moments, the film is too polite and tidy for its own good. Extras: making-of short.

EVERLASTING MOMENTS (2008, Criterion, unrated, \$40) -- Can a passion for photography save your life? That's the question the great Swedish filmmaker Jan Troell ("The New Land") asks with this 131-minute drama about an abused wife and mother named Maria Larsson (remarkable Maria Heiskanen) whose hardscrabble existence is transformed by her discovery of a camera. Narrated by one of Maria's seven children, the movie has some slow patches but it's so gorgeously photographed and richly drawn that it's never less than a rewarding experience. Extras: 60-minute doc about Troell and a film about the real-life Larsson featuring her photos.

LOVE CHILD (1982, Warner Archive, R, \$20) -- In her film debut, Amy Madigan delivers an indelible performance as Terry Jean Moore, a convict who fights to keep her baby after becoming pregnant by a prison guard (Beau Bridges). The based-on-a-true-story tale received a lot of press back in 1977 but to director Larry Pearce's credit, the film is less a ripped-from-the-headlines melodrama than a character study of a poor Ohio teenager who can't seem to catch a break. Extras: none.

CRAZY (2008, Screen Media, R, \$25) -- Here's a compelling biopic about legendary Nashville guitarist Hank "Sugarfoot" Garland (Waylon Payne), a short-tempered genius of the strings whose music sweetened the recordings of Patsy Cline, Elvis Presley and Eddy Arnold. Garland was nitroglycerine in cowboy boots, so when he married the equally volatile Evelyn (Ali Larter), it was only a matter of time before an explosion rocked their lives. "Crazy," which begins with Garland on his way to a disastrous shock treatment session, bypassed theaters but it's worth hunting down on DVD. Extras: interview with Garland and commentary by director Rick Bieber.

STEAMBOAT BILL JR. (1928, Kino, unrated, \$30) -- Buster Keaton's last great film is 73 minutes of pure bliss. In addition to serving up plenty of laughs, the Great Stoneface pulls off a handful of jaw-dropping stunts, including riding an uprooted tree in the middle of a cyclone and escaping a collapsing building through an open window. And he gets the girl too! Also new this week: "Lost Keaton: Sixteen Comedy Shorts 1934-37 (Kino, unrated, \$35), a two-disc set that collects all of the miniature gems Keaton made for Educational Pictures. Extras: featurettes.

COLUMBIA PICTURES FILM NOIR CLASSICS II (2010, Sony, unrated, \$60) -- The first volume of grubby noir thrillers, selected and introduced by Martin Scorsese, was one of the best DVD packages of 2009. The sequel, which offers five more hidden gems, is just as essential. Begin your dark journey with the mobbed-up classic "The Brothers Rico" (1957), which stars Jersey City's Richard Conte as a former mob accountant unable to go straight. Next stop should be "Nightfall" (1956), a wrong-man nightmare starring Aldo Ray and Anne Bancroft, and "Pushover" (1954), a moody drama about a cop (Fred MacMurray) who


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Biographical Documentary DVD - Janis Joplin: Final 24 - Her Final Hours (DVD) Barnes & Noble.com

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makes the mistake of falling for the wrong dame (Kim Novak, in her film debut). Also on tap: "Human Desire" (1954) and "City of Fear" (1958). Extras: discussions with Scorsese, Emily Mortimer and director Christopher Nolan.

MAD ABOUT YOU: THE COMPLETE FOURTH SEASON (1995, Shout Factory, unrated, \$30) -- An Emmy winner for comedy series, this sitcom about New Yorkers Paul and Jamie Buckman (Paul Reiser, Helen Hunt) rolled into its fourth season with plenty of clever storylines about the couples' non-stop efforts to conceive. As for guest stars, there's the unusually varied lineup of Arte Johnson, Hank Azaria and Yoko Ono. Extras: new introductions by Hunt and Reiser.

E.R.: THE COMPLETE THIRTEENTH SEASON (2006, Warner, unrated, \$50) -- Laura Innes' prickly Dr. Weaver was always one of the best reasons to check into County General so her departure is a cause for disappointment and an occasion for two of the season's sharpest- written episodes. Arriving to take her place in the emergency room is Dr. Tony Gates (John Stamos), a paramedic-turned-intern. Keep your eyes peeled for guest stars Sally Field, Stanley Tucci and Forest Whitaker. Extras: unaired scenes.

DRAGNET 1968: SEASON TWO (1968, Shout Factory, unrated, \$40) -- After anchoring a radio program and a popular 1950s TV show, top cops Joe Friday (Jack Webb) and Bill Gannon (Harry Morgan) returned to television for four seasons in the late '60s. If fan favorite "The Big High" doesn't turn you into a "Dragnet" junkie, check your badge at the door. Extras: pilot movie and featurette about Webb.

I NEED THAT RECORD! (2010, MVD, unrated, \$15) -- When record companies killed the single -- and priced CDs at \$18.98 -- they pretty much wrote their own death warrant. But the success of downloadable music also decimated indie record stores across the country and that's a crying shame. Brendan Toller's elegy for independent shops contains fascinating info about music industry greed as well as footage of still-thriving holes-in-the-wall in Boston and Waterbury, Conn. The documentary is available, appropriately enough, only at indie stores until July 27, when it goes on sale everywhere. Extras: none.

UPCOMING

Tuesday-- "The Bounty Hunter," "Caught in the Crossfire," "Chloe," "The Greatest," "Greenberg," "Our Family Wedding," "Saint John of Las Vegas."

July 20 -- "Cop Out," "The Losers," "The Runaways."

July 27 -- "Clash of the Titans," "Repo Man."

-- Amy Longsdorf

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