

Army of Shadows
Blu-ray (Criterion)

Jean-Pierre Melville's classic tale of the French Resistance is a true masterpiece of cinema that has inspired generations of filmmakers. It's difficult to believe that this overwhelming work, steeped

in the language of Hollywood war films and noir, went years without recognition. It was decidedly out of step with the prevailing political sentiment in France at the time of its release and, initially, was a critical and commercial failure. Only many years after Melville's death, when critics reevaluated his work, did *Army of Shadows* finally receive its proper acclaim as one of the director's most important and enduring statements. The Criterion Blu-ray disc is packed with extras including on-set footage, interviews with the director, and a rare documentary made in France during the last days of the German occupation. The packaging includes a thick booklet highlighted by an essay from *Film Comment*, a piece by a Columbia University history professor on Melville's characterization of the French Resistance, and an excerpt from Rui Nogueira's *Melville on Melville*. (www.criterion.com)

***** 9/10

By Paul Bullock

with severe paranoid schizophrenia and manic depression.

Dubbed "Wild Man" by Solomon Burke, Fischer departed his stay in an institution (for attacking his mother) and began making a living in the mid-'60s, singing songs on the street for a dime. He came to the attention of Frank Zappa, who befriended Fischer and recorded the double-album *An Evening With Wild Man Fischer*, at which point he kicked off a career as a widely known outsider artist. Despite TV appearances on *Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In* and some live shows, Fischer's "career" was endlessly hobbled by his personal demons.

For the film, director Josh Rubin and producer Jeremy Lubin spend considerable time with Fischer in his years prior to his move into assisted living. When he has "the pep"—his furious bursts of joyous energy—he discusses his myriad colorful experiences when not breaking into song. Acquaintances including Gail Zappa, Weird Al Yankovic, Dr. Demento, and Devo's Mark Mothersbaugh add their recollections, providing some balanced input to the paranoia-wracked memories of the funny, gifted, and tragic Fischer. (www.derailroaded.com)

***** 7/10

By Hays Davis



restraint by Ewan McGregor.

As the plot unfurls, the absurdity quotient goes through the roof but never off the rails. Gay stereotypes are activated ad nauseum, but at its core this is a film about life clichés—love, loss, identity crises—subjects that would be dull if the debut directorial team of Glenn Ficarra and John Requa weren't so reckless in how they banded them around. *Phillip Morris* succeeds because it tells a story with a steadfast refusal to play by the rules, tugging at your heartstrings without deigning to cheap sentimentality. (www.phillipmorrismovie.net)

***** 6/10

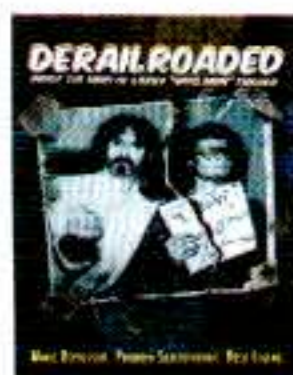
By John Everhart



I Love You Phillip Morris
DVD/Blu-ray (Lionsgate)

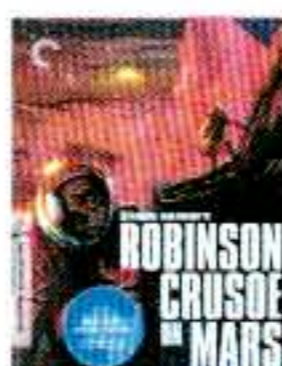
Opening with a circular plot device eerily similar to that of *Drugstore Cowboy* (sweaty man dying on gurney recounting his life), *I Love You Phillip Morris* promptly veers in a multitude of directions, with a gonzo Jim Carrey playing

Steven Russell, orphan turned archetypal married straight man turned stereotypical gay man turned convict on the run. Eventually imprisoned, Russell meets a fellow con who, ostensibly, is the love of his life, Phillip Morris, played superbly with effete



Derailroaded: Inside The Mind of Larry Fischer
DVD (Ubin Twinz Productions)

The documentary *Derailroaded* chronicles the life of Larry Fischer, a creative force of nature whose every waking moment seemed to be driven by two dominant halves: his urge to generate and sing songs, and his endless struggle



Robinson Crusoe on Mars
Blu-ray (Criterion)

1964's often-overlooked science fiction classic *Robinson Crusoe on Mars* has received a stunning new

Blu-ray release from the ever-dependable Criterion Collection. The film, that resets Daniel Defoe's classic tale on an angry red planet in the "not too distant future," holds up remarkably well, in part due to the stellar camera work of the legendary director of photography Winton C. Hoch (*The Searchers*, *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*). Special effects dynamo Byron Haskin (1953's *The War of the Worlds*, *The Naked Jungle*) directs strong, often humorous, occasionally unintentionally hilarious, performances out of the three human cast members (Paul Mantee, Victor Lundin, Adam West) and their simian co-star, Mona the monkey. There are plenty of campy moments, but it's packed with enough retro-futuristic props and far-out set design that it's sure to delight any fan of the genre. The disc also includes a video made to accompany Victor Lundin's recording of his very silly and sweet convention staple song "Robinson Crusoe on Mars" from his vanity album, *Little Owl*. (www.criterion.com)

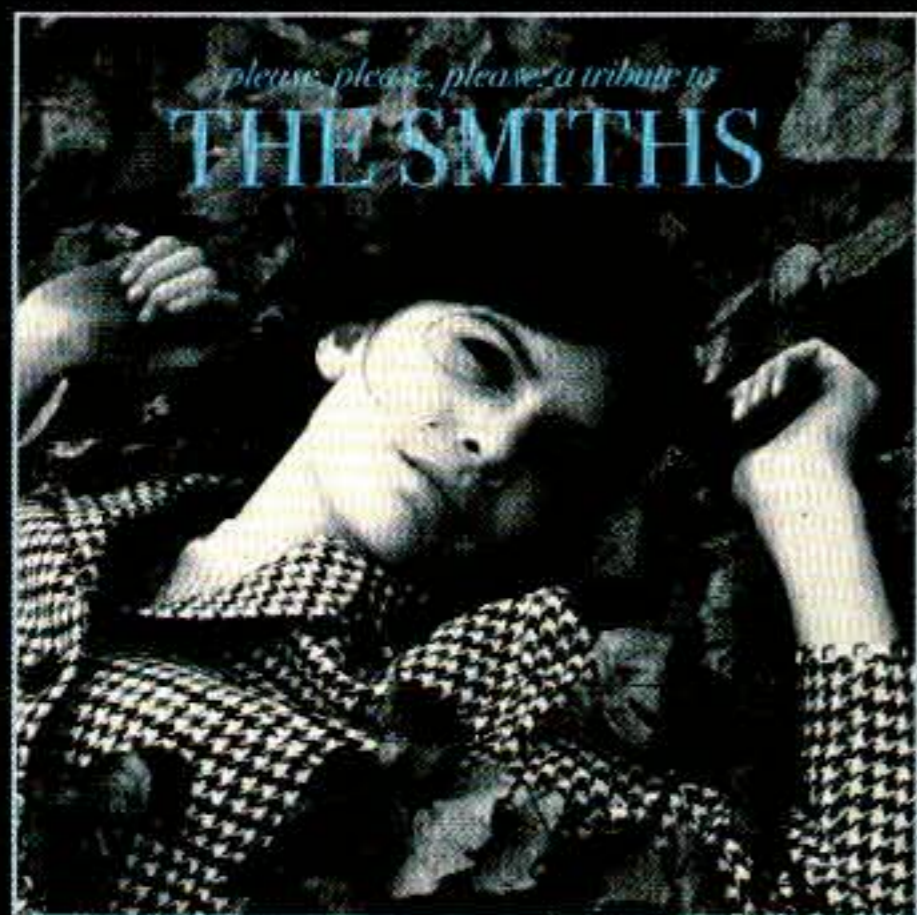
***** 8/10

By Paul Bullock

AMERICAN LAUNDROMAT RECORDS

Award-winning tributes and new releases by some of today's best indie artists!

Full catalog available at www.alr-music.com



Please, Please, Please - A Tribute To The Smiths

Now taking pre-orders! Stars, OK Go, Doug Martsch, William Fitzsimmons, Greg Laswell, Tanya Donelly, and The Wedding Present are just some of the artists covering The Smiths for our upcoming tribute.



Just Like Heaven - A Tribute To The Cure

16 outstanding new cover versions of Cure favorites by The Wedding Present, Dean & Britta, The Rosebuds, Tanya Donelly, Grand Duchy and many more.



Cinnamon Girl - Women Artists Cover Neil Young For Charity

Tanya Donelly, Kristin Hersh, Veruca Salt, The Watson Twins, Jill Sobule, Lori McKenna, and Britta Phillips cover Neil's most popular songs for charity.



High School Reunion - A Tribute to Those Great 80's Films!

Matthew Sweet, Frank Black, Kristin Hersh, and The Dresden Dolls cover songs from those hilarious 80's teen flicks.

All titles available from Amazon, Borders, Barnes & Noble, iTunes, Amazon MP3, and everywhere fine indie records are sold.

For reliable mail order, free streaming radio, exclusive releases, and official merch visit www.alr-music.com