



CURRENT REVIEWS

IN STORES SOON

- > The Smurfs & The Magic Flute (Shout! Factory DVD)
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- > Dora's Fantastic Gymnastic Adv./Fresh Beat Band: The Wizard Of Song (Nickelodeon DVDs)
- > The Winx Club: Secret Of The Lost Kingdom (Nickelodeon DVD Set)
- > The Essential Games Of The...Chicago Cubs/Philadelphia Phillies/Texas Rangers (MLB/A&E DVD Box Sets)
- > Barack Obama: From His Childhood To The Presidency (2011/Biography/A&E DVD)/Genetic Chile (> R.L. Stein's Haunting Hour: Series, Vol. 1 + 2/Adv. Of Tintin: Seas. 3 (Shout! Factory DVD
- > Doc McStuffins: Friendship Is The Best Medicine (Disney DVD)/Mia & The Migoo (2009/E1 DVD)
- > American Pickers, Volume Four (2011/A&E DVDs)/The Beatles: Their Golden Age (MVD DVD)/The Callers: The Art Of Auctioneering (2012/First Run DVD)/Dance
- Moms – Season One/Pawn Stars, Volume Five (2011/
- > Disney's Let It Shine (DVD)/LOL (Lionsgate Blu-ray)/Never Stand Still (First Run DVD/all 2012)
- > Bel Ami (2012/Sony DVD)/The Forsyte Saga (2002 – 2004 TV Mini-Series/Acorn DVD Reissue Set)
- > Breathless (2012/Anchor Bay Blu-ray w/DVD)/Jessie Stone: Benefit Of The Doubt (2012/Sony DVD)/Misfits – Season One (2011/BBC DVD Set)/Sinking Of The Laconia (2010/Acorn DVD Set)/Vega\$ – Season Three,
- > Kill List (2011/IFC/MDBI Blu-

American Pickers, Volume Four (2011/A&E DVDs)/The Beatles: Their Golden Age (MVD DVD)/The Callers: The Art Of Auctioneering (2012/First Run DVD)/Dance Moms – Season One/Pawn Stars, Volume Five (2011/A&E DVDs)

Picture: C+/C/C+/C/C+
 Sound: C+/C/C/C+/C+
 Extras: D (Callers: C+)
 Episodes: B-/C/B-/D/B



Now for some reality TV and other special interest releases...

American Pickers, Volume Four continues the adventures of Frank Fritz and Mike Wolfe going to any locale where they can get into someone's vast collection of collectible, buy what they can for the least amount of money and make a profit on it. They have fun and the show can be fun, but they can be crass at times and at this point in the series, it seems like they are overly hyping up the yelling, hooting and hollering in what feels like desperation. Still, the 2-DVD set has eight episodes and they still know how to find interesting items, so the most important aspect of the show still works.

Featuring none of their classic music, **The Beatles: Their Golden Age** is a slap-together look at the band with often too-rough archive footage that can be hard to watch, a mixed narration on the band and is something that is just not that well done. The Beatles Anthology was far superior and after endless indie Beatles releases, this is pretty unnecessary. Save some good footage here and there and when the narrator is on the money, this is a poor disc worth skipping unless you are a diehard fan of the band.

Susan Sfarra's **The Callers: The Art Of Auctioneering** (2012) makes for a nice companion piece and alternative to shows like **Pawn Stars**, **American Restoration** and **American Pickers** by showing small town auctions and bidding from the point of view of the oral tradition of being the person who speaks the bid over a microphone. It also shows us the less valuable items often up for bid and how for some, it is survival or a way of life.

With many interviews and questions you would never see asked on **Auction Hunters**, we get 89 minutes of another side of Americana and it is much quieter than its TV series counterparts. I thought this was well done and worth going out of your way for, especially if you like any of the series noted.

Made in Pittsburgh, **Dance Moms – Season One** (2011) has to be one of the worst reality TV shows of late with a teacher (Abby Lee Miller) who is always angry, bitter and rather obnoxious. She makes bad situations worse, is dysfunctional and the young ladies trying to dance all seem to be exploited throughout. A moderate hit, I hope this show folds soon because I expect disaster from it soon and it makes the city it comes from look bad. Why do parents put yup with this? Is she the only dance teacher in

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 > A Novel Romance (2011/E1 DVD)
 > Forever Marilyn Blu-ray Collection (Fox w/Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, How To Marry A Millionaire, River Of No Return, There's No Business Like Show Business, Seven Year Itch, (plus MGM/UA) Some Like It
 > Treasure Planet – 10th Anniversary Edition (2002)/Home On The Range (2004)/Newsies – 20th Anniversary Edition (1992/Disney Blu-rays)
 > Headspace (2005/MVD Visual DVD)
 > Black Cobra

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 > Ken Russell's Lisztomania (1975/Warner Archive DVD)/Peter Gabriel: Secret World Live (1993/Eagle Blu-ray)
 > Hey Dude – Season 3 + Hey Arnold: Season 2 – Part 2 + Rocko's Modern Life: Season Three (Nickelodeon/Shout! Factory DVD Sets)
 > Profane (2011/MVD Visual DVD)
 > Clown Hunt (2010/MVD Visual DVD)



town? Likely not. What a cynical exploitation show.

Last and not least we have **Pawn Stars, Volume Five** (2011) which is as strong a set as we have seen to date with more goodies going into the 24-hours-a-day Las Vegas store run by the three generations of Harrison men. Some of the items are one-of-a-kind, others priceless and this also offers one of the funniest shows to date. We get 16 episodes over two DVDs and it only makes me wonder why this is not on Blu-ray. A really good set.

The 1.33 X 1 image on the **Beatles** DVD and anamorphically enhanced 1.78 X 1 image on **Moms** are both softer than expected and weaker than they should be. The remaining DVDs are anamorphically enhanced 1.78 X 1 and though they are also HD shoots, they look better despite their moments of softness and motion blur. Color is good on all the discs for the most part, but not great. The lossy Dolby Digital 2.0 Stereo on all five DVD releases are good, but the A&E shows are better than the **Beatles** piece or **Callers** because of their lower budgets and other audio issues.

There are no extras on any of these discs except some extra footage (yikes) on **Moms** and **Callers** offers Bonus Scenes, Bonus Interviews and a PDF guide to being a caller of bidding and auctions.

- Nicholas Sheffo

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