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DEJA RE-VU Pop Culture Classics' Recommended CDs, DVDs and Books

By Paul Freeman

DVDs

"MYSTERIA'"

This noir-ish mystery has a terrific cast, which makes the low budget irrelevant. The compelling character study/suspenser revolves around an aging screenwriter who's in desperate need of an idea ... and a shower. Far removed from his early Hollywood successes, he's now lost in a haze of alcohol and cigarette smoke. His confusion complicates his implication in a brutal murder case. He's finally unblocked enough to write a new thriller, but as its protagonist, the results could be dire. The film keeps viewers guessing and raptly attentive, from the opening frame to the denouement, thanks to the skills of writer-director-editor Lucius C. Kuert. Such familiar character actors as Martin Landau, Danny Glover, Michael Rooker, Peter Mark Richman and Billy Zane turn in spot-on performances. But it's the riveting portraval of the down-on-his-luck writer by the lesser known Robert Miano that makes this film a must-see. He brings a quiet intensity and masterful shadings to this intriguing, enigmatic role.

"THE LOVE GUIDE"

If you, like us, enjoy every opportunity to watch Parker Posey, you'll savor her fabulously quirky performance as a New Age-y guru in this movie. She plays a reality show host who learns from the free range chicken farmer her show is trying to exploit. The warm, off-beat comedy co-stars Kathryn Erbe and Jay Harrington ("Better Off Ted") as the rural couple wilting under the camera's intrusive scrutiny.

"THE BEATLES: THEIR GOLDEN A GE'

Though you won't hear actual Beatle tracks in this DVD, there are visual treats galore for Fab Four fans. Among the rare clips are a 1963 boat excursion in Holland, "Magical Mystery Tour" TV special snippets, behind-the-scenes bits of "A Hard Day's Night," John reading his poetry, Paul commenting on LSD usage, John and Yoko's bedin, Paul and Linda's wedding, George with Patty Boyd. This hourlong documentary breezes by quickly and bears repeated viewina.

"IDENTICAL"

Identical twins, one good, one evil, fall in love with the same woman. The consequences prove dire. The thriller is "inspired by a true story." It sets up expectations and then turns them upside-down. Jonathan Togo excels in the dual lead roles, delineating two distinctly different psyches. Emily Foxler also impresses, as a complex woman being pulled in two directions. Ed



Asner is touching in smaller role. Co-writer/director Daniel Bollag keeps the story compelling. "Identical" has been honored at a number of film festivals.

"JIMI PLAYS BERKELEY"

This special, expanded edition from Sony Legacy, available as DVD and Blu-Ray, adds more than 15 minutes of newly discovered footage. From behind the scenes to the electrifying time on stage, the documentary takes us to Berkeley, California, Memorial Day, 1970, as Hendrix delivers a powerpacked set. A sense of the man,

Coming Attractions Adam Sandler Al Franken Al Kooper Alan Alda





