

> [Batn Sait Zombies](#) (2013/MVD Visual DVD)
 > [Richard III](#) (1955/Olivier/Criterion Blu-ray)
 > [Foyle's War – Set 6](#) (2010/Acorn Media DVD Set)
 > [Dragon](#) (2011/Radius/Anchor Bay Blu-ray)
 > [The Green Slime](#) (1968/MGM/Toei/Warner Archive DVD)
 > [The Four \(2012/Well Go USA Blu-ray\)](#)
 > [The Frankenstein Theory](#) (2013/Image Entertainment DVD)
 > [The Sorcerer & The White Snake](#) (2011/aka The Emperor & The White Snake/Magnolia/Magnet Blu-ray)
 > [John Dies At The End](#) (2012/Magnolia/MagNet Blu-ray)
 > [Funny Girl](#) (1968/Sony Blu-ray)/[Kid Millions](#) (1934)/[Whoopee](#) (1930/Warner Archive DVDs)
 > [Major Dundee](#) (1965/Columbia/Sony/Twilight Time Limited Edition Blu-ray)/[Maverick: The Complete Second Season](#) (1958 – 1959/Warner DVDs)
 > [Ghost Hunters – Season 8, Part 1](#) (2012/Image Entertainment DVD)
 > [Hey Good Lookin'](#) (1982/Warner Archive DVD)
 > [Roy Clarke's Last Of The Summer Wine – Vintage 1997](#) (BBC DVD)
 > [Philo Vance Murder Case Collection](#) (1930 – 1940/MGM/First National/Warner Archive DVD set)

as he played through his 17 song set where he did not sound like a legacy artist at all that if he talked to the audience a few more times, they might have participated more, but they were just not all there.

Fortunately for real fans, he is and after a montage of all his studio and live album releases, he jumps right into his music and never stops. Without sounding stale, he covers his classic hits and can definitely still play after all these years. The band is a plus and this show deserves its Blu-ray release.

Extras include a Frampton interview and a rehearsal performance of "Boot It Up" from the **FCA! 35 Tour**, a Blu-ray of which Eagle also issued, reviewed elsewhere on this site.

Mervin LeRoy's **Gypsy** (1962) is the backstage musical telling of how the overprotective mother (Rosalind Russell) who never made it in show business intends that her daughter Louise (Natalie Wood in what was a somewhat racy performance for its time) become a burlesque legend. Warner Bros. went all out with a huge budget to make this film of the Broadway Musical a hit and it was, as well as a critical success that cemented Russell's popularity and only increased Wood's profile.

LeRoy was a veteran when he took this on and had some musicals under his belt, but had not taken on the genre in decades. This would be his last big film and though it is long at 143 minutes and that means in this case some moments that do not work, most of it is surprisingly effective as it passes the half-century mark and still tops the ambitious Bette Midler telefilm remake. Barbra Streisand is still talking about remaking it herself.

But it is this version that remains the quintessential one, with chemistry between the leads, Karl Malden and a solid supporting cast that includes Parley Baer, Paul Wallace, Betty Bruce, a young Harvey Korman, several stars playing themselves (like Jack Benny) and even a very young Ann Jillian in her child star period. In this edition with its fine HD master, you can not only see the color, detail and depth, but the money the studio put in the film because it is absolutely on the screen.

I was surprised this became an online-only release, especially because it is one of the studio's key musicals, but this edition makes all previous video releases obsolete and unless you have seen it in a good film print, you can finally see here why people still talk about this film. I was also surprised how grand this was and how consistently so it managed to be. This is a big event film that remains a big event and is worth revisiting if you have seen it before. If you have never seen it before and have a Blu-ray player, you have got to get this disc as even those who are not fans of musicals will be shocked at how well it plays.

Extras include the Original Theatrical Trailer and 2 Outtake Musical Numbers: a duet version of "You'll Never Get Away From Me" and "Together Wherever We Go".

Finally we have Spookie Daly's **J.J. Grey & Mofro: Brighter Days – The Live Concert Film** (2011) is one of the best combination concert film/documentaries I have seen in a while, detailing the amazing stories, talents and music of singer-songwriter-musician J.J. Grey. A potential breakout star, his rich command of Rock, Country, Soul and some elements of Blues make him a talented one-of-a-kind artist that the music business seems to suddenly have an extremely difficult time in finding, signing and promoting.

In the times when music lovers and people who knew the business were running the labels, he would at least have some kind of big hit single by now and from the songs featured here (they should have identified each before he sings them), several possible hits are here with more than enough commercial appeal. I was impressed by how honest, funny, open and even brutal the lyrics could be on some of the songs and how much fun and rich in musicality the others were. He is not just another tunesmith, but a serious talent to be reckoned with and one you may be hearing about sooner than you think. Grey also is very well spoken when he talks just as when he sings.

There are no extras.

The anamorphically enhanced 1.78 X 1 image on **Garner** and **Grey** can be soft and a little uneven, expected more so for **Garner** since it combines so

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sort and a little uneven, expected more so for **Garner** since it combines so many film and video sources, but they are both very watchable despite any flaws. The Grey concert footage can look really good, as can the outdoor interview nature footage, telling us this needs a Blu-ray release. The 1080i 1.78 X 1 digital High Definition image on **Frampton** is better and pretty good for a 1999 taping, but it still has some motion blur and softness throughout. Still, nice it holds up as well as it does 14 years later (already!) and counting.

That leaves the 1080p 2.35 X 1 digital High Definition image transfer on **Gypsy** the visual champ here, shot in the large frame format Technirama, having some amazing demo shots, exceptional uses of color, great color range and Grade-A production values befitting a major studio musical. Yes, the print can show its age here and there, holding the playback back a bit at times, but this is usually fine and when the color is at its best, it tends to demonstrate how great the dye-transfer, three-strip Technicolor print versions of the film (now *very* pricey, valuable 35mm prints) were. Director of Photography Harry Stradling, Jr. (Minnelli's **The Pirate, Johnny Guitar, Auntie Mame, My Fair Lady, Funny Girl, Hello Dolly!**, Hitchcock's **Suspicion, A Streetcar Named Desire**) does some of the most amazing work of his career here in one filled with unforgettable, even groundbreaking moments, using that very widescreen frame to its fullest extent and making for a must-own Blu-ray for all serious motion picture fans.

The lossy Dolby Digital 2.0 Stereo on **Garner** includes many monophonic moments, but the stereo is good when it is there and the new interviews do not have any location audio issues. The lossy Dolby Digital 5.1 on **Grey** is pretty good, well recorded and would likely sound better in a lossless presentation as the bass never overwhelms the music presentation. It is just the Dolby cannot cut it versus what the soundmaster seems to offer music-wise.

The DTS-HD MA (Master Audio) 5.1 lossless mix on **Frampton** is the sonic champ here with a rich, warm, consistent soundfield throughout. The engineers, mixers and producers really did their job well in this case, even if it is not stunning overall, it is still more than consistently effective enough.

The DTS-HD MA (Master Audio) 2.0 Stereo on **Gypsy** is pretty good and plays well in Pro Logic mode, but the film was originally a multi-channel film including a 6-track magnetic sound presentation in 70mm prints, but that soundmaster is currently lost or unavailable so all we get is two channels. Still, this is a well-recorded film for its time and nice here in a presentation that can compete with all the soundtracks issued to date.

To order the **Gypsy** Blu-ray, go to this [link](http://www.warnerarchive.com/) for it and many more great web-exclusive releases at:

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- Nicholas Sheffo

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