

perpetually distracted scientist of Chaplin-esque qualities (though he resembles Albert Einstein) in this

today for George Harrison's equally hallucinogenic soundtrack.

What plot there is has MacGowran obsessed with his young neighbor, a model (Jane Birkin) on whom he spies through holes in the wall of his drab apartment, drawn to the music and bursts of color on her side. This leads him into a series of surrealistic imaginings, some amusing, others just baffling. Not rated, but there is some discreet sex and partial nudity. (And in a reversal of the norm, the director's cut is shorter by 12 minutes.)

**"Boardwalk"** (MVD, 1979, \$16.95). Low-budget, independent mix of "On Golden Pond" and "Death Wish." As an elderly couple approaches their 50th wedding anniversary, urban decay ravages their longtime Coney Island neighborhood. Worse, young thugs move in, demanding protection money for their diner. A bit slow but gets a real boost from strong performances by Lee Strasberg and Ruth Gordon as the couple and Janet Leigh as their daughter. (Also on Blu-ray, \$19.95)

**"The Americanization of Emily"** (Warner Archive/Blu-ray, 1964, b/w, \$19.95, audio commentary, featurette, trailer). Blu-ray debut of this excellent, razor-sharp World War II satire about a naval officer, a self-described "practicing coward" (James Garner), coerced by his pal (James Coburn) into becoming the first D-Day casualty to appease their unstable admiral (Melvyn Douglas). Meanwhile, Garner falls for a widowed motor pool driver (Julie Andrews).

**"The Boy From Stalingrad"** (Sony Choice, 1943, b/w, \$18.95). Offbeat drama, an interesting example of American propaganda films produced during World War II when Russia was an ally. A group of abandoned Russian kids work together to undermine the advancing German army even as they struggle to fend for themselves.

**"The Burglar"** (Sony Choice, 1957, b/w, \$18.95). Cleverly constructed film noir about a gang of burglars, led by Dan Duryea and Jayne Mansfield, successfully pulling off a jewelry caper then running into trouble with outsiders trying to muscle in as well as their own bickering.

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