

# The Phantom of the Movies'

## NEW RELEASE SHELF

*New release titles are followed by year, Phantom rating, director, lead actors, running time (with titles released in separate editions, the running time refers to the Unrated version), DVD and/or Blu-ray label and release date (month and year).*

### RATINGS KEY

♫♫♫♫  
Couldn't be better

♫♫♫1/2  
Excellent

♫♫♫  
Good

♫♫1/2

Not bad; worth watching

♫♫

Mediocre, worthwhile for a particular  
thesp, director or genre

♫1/2

Poor but may have points of interest

♫

Just plain bad

1/2♫

Even worse than that

0♫

The pits

N/A

Not available on video

N.I.D.

Not in distribution

Special thanks go to Guidance Ro-Man  
for his ratings symbol suggestion.



### LO-TECH GEEKS

#### ADJUST YOUR TRACKING: THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE VHS COLLECTOR (2013)♫♫♫

D: Dan Kinem & Levi Peretic. Bradley Crean-  
anzo, 42nd St. Pete, Bruce Holecheck, Lloyd  
Kaufman, Mike Raso, Sam Sherman, Tony  
Timpone. 80 mins. (2-DVD, VHSF) 6/14

The growing VHS nostalgia craze continues  
apace as *Adjust Your Tracking* follows hot  
on the spinning spools of *Rewind This!* (VS  
#90), covering much the same ground as that  
video valentine but with a bit less polish and  
an even more proudly puerile 'tude. While  
documentarians Kinem and Peretic check in  
(too) briefly with filmmakers associated with  
the era, like Sam (*Satan's Sadists*) Sherman,  
Mike (*Screaming Dead*) Raso, and Lloyd  
(*The Toxic Avenger*) Kaufman (who champi-  
ons the vastly improved DVD format), most of

their attention is focused on fans and collec-  
tors, some of whom wear out their wel-  
comes fairly quickly, although Cinema  
Arcana webmaster Bruce Holecheck and  
*Fangoria* Editor Emeritus Tony Timpone  
offer valuable insights, and Bradley Cre-  
anzo earns major props as the defunct for-  
mat's most obsessive preservationist, re-  
creating an entire video store—replete with  
thousands of tapes, checkout counter and  
credit card computer—in his sprawling  
basement. And *Adjust* is nothing if not  
thorough, brimming with extras covering  
such topics as the Big Box Syndrome (we  
saved many of ours from such long-  
vanished labels as Magnum and VCR, with  
the alluringly garish *Succubare*, glimpsed  
briefly here, remaining a personal fave) and  
the bane of cutboxes. (The latter segment  
also serves to magnify the myopia common  
in fandom: when a collector rants that cut-  
boxes bring out the Hitler in him, the film-  
makers insert a stock shot of a shouting  
Adolph [fair enough]; when he further  
states his desire to "liquidate" same, the  
filmmakers cut to actual Holocaust  
corpses—not funny or cool.) More poignant  
are two featurettes detailing the last days of  
a pair of indie vidstores, in Staten Island (*It  
Wasn't in Vain, It Was in Staten Island*) and  
Jamestown, Pennsylvania (*Video Shelf*), while  
an upbeat bonus short takes viewers on a tour  
of Seattle's Scarecrow Video, a vast and still-  
thriving specialty outlet that even boasts a  
working VHS section. Thoroughly deserving  
VHS icon Chester Novell Turner, auteur of the  
homemade, Casio-scored wonders *Black Devil  
Doll from Hell* and *Tales from the Quadead  
Zone* (VS #89), receives his own tribute (*The  
Ballad of Chester Novell Turner*), while  
filmmakers Kinem and Peretic are recorded  
holding forth at an Alamo Drafthouse Q&A.  
Despite its rough edges and occasional tonal  
miscues, *Adjust Your Tracking* reps must  
viewing for video lovers of all stripes.

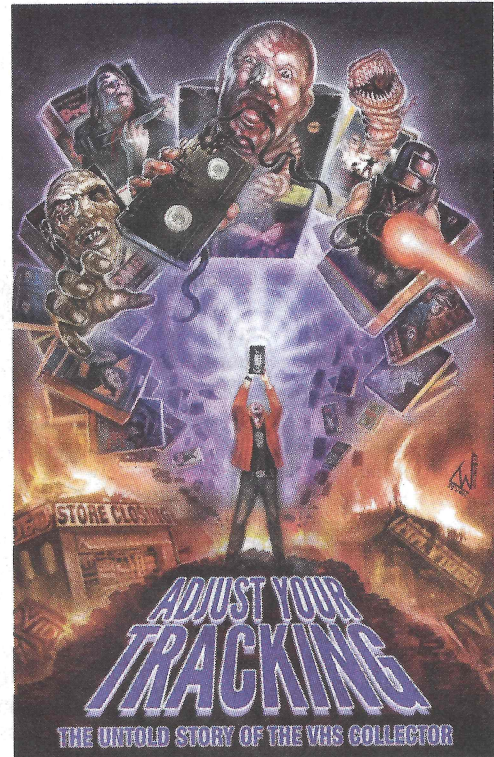
—*The Phantom*

### HI-TECH SHRIEKS

#### APP (2013)♫♫♫

D: Bobby Boermans. Hannah Hoekstra, Isis  
Cabolet, Robert de Hoog, Alex Hendrickx,  
Matthijs van de Sande Bakhuyzen, Harry van  
Rijthoven. 75 mins. (RAM Releasing) 12/14

College student Anna (Hoekstra) downloads an  
app for "Iris," a sort of Wikipedia with a dia-  
bolic agenda. While Anna tries to keep up



with school as well as her crippled brother  
Stijn (Hendrickx), who is about to have a  
computer chip implanted in his spine to help  
him walk again, the app begins intruding into  
her life. She cannot delete it from her phone,  
and it even jumps to a new phone when she  
changes them out. The app starts terrorizing  
her as it shares compromising videos of her  
friends as well as outing a gay teacher trading  
grades for sex. When she learns an ex  
downloaded the app onto her phone to spy on  
her, Anna discovers a greater techno terror  
that threatens her brother's life. This English-  
subtitled Dutch import turned out to be a  
happy surprise, a tech thriller that doesn't get  
bogged down in details and moves briskly  
from start to finish. Hoekstra is great as the  
heroine, very appealing and instantly likable.  
(She is in no way, shape or form a victim.)  
With its brief running time, *App* never over-  
stays its welcome. The film also gets our  
nomination for this year's William Castle  
Award for Most Enterprising Gimmick: view-  
ers can download the Iris app onto their own  
phones and watch it utilizing second-screen  
technology. (Voice-activated, the app will  
reveal exclusive content about the film while  
the flick plays.) Well worth a look.

—Rob Freese  
VideoScope 9