

video

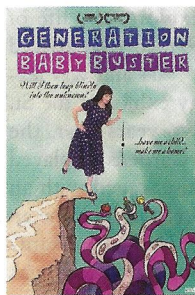
FICTION

Field of Lost Shoes. color. 96 min.
Sean McNamara, ARC Entertainment,
dist. by Amazon.com. 2014. DVD UPC
796019827546. \$20.99. Rated: PG-13. F

In 1864, Virginia Military Institute (VMI) cadets were pressed into service during the Battle of New Market, and their efforts helped win the fight against Union forces. Jason Isaacs portrays Rebel general John C. Breckinridge in a cast that also includes David Arquette, Lauren Holly, and Tom Skerritt (miscast as Gen. Ulysses S. Grant). Director McNamara capably brings the story to screen, but while the film does feature the first Jewish VMI cadet, Moses Ezekiel, this film is so old-fashioned in its treatment of slavery that it could have been made 60 years ago—and should have. It's ill-fit for the modern screen, especially when the plot features progressive-minded cadets rescuing an enslaved man. A larger budget might have added more extras to the well-staged battle scenes, but the premise is flawed. Since these cadets, the sons of slave owners, barely mention the root cause of the war, the story plays as Civil War fantasy. A lost cause, indeed. **VERDICT** For Civil War enthusiasts, since it does depict a lesser-known battle. YA audiences might enjoy the young cadet angle, although the depiction of slavery leaves ample room for debate.—**Kelly Sinclair, Temple P.L., TX**

Grace. color. 93+ min. Heath Jones,
Dolger Films Prod., dist. by Entertainment
One c/o Amazon.com. 2015. DVD UPC
625828639043. \$19.99. F

Outstanding production values, fine camera work, and solid acting would seem to make this film worthwhile viewing for helping alcoholics interested in getting sober. Unfortunately, despite those assets and an attractive cast, the drama lacks credibility. Grace (Annika Marks), its alcoholic protagonist, awakens far from her New York home on a Florida beach she once visited as a toddler with her dad and alcoholic mom, who is now dead. Grace has no idea where she is or how she got there. Stumbling into a beachfront coffee shop, she borrows a cell phone to call her dad to ask for help. Arriving with his second wife, Dad reminds Grace of her history of drunken sprees and won't give her money unless she agrees to his conditions. Grace refuses and is left to her own devices. Enraged, self-pitying, and denying her addiction, she gets drunk again and is arrested. Just when all seems lost, the owner



A fascinating look at the complex choice women face; a police procedural with a Nordic twist

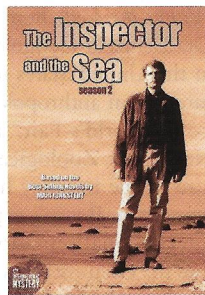
of the coffee shop (Sharon Lawrence) offers Grace a new chance at recovery. **VERDICT** Recommended with reservations for high school and public library collections.—**Sheila S. Intner, professor emerita, Simmons GSLS at Mt. Holyoke Coll., South Hadley, MA**

A Horseman Riding By. 4 discs. color.
673 min. Philip Dudley & others, BBC,
dist. by Acorn Media, 888-870-8047;
www.acornonline.com. 2015. DVD ISBN
9781621722106. \$59.99. SDH subtitles. F/TV

This 13-part series is based on novelist R.F. Delderfield's 1966 trilogy about life in a British agricultural community at the turn of the 20th century. Army veteran Paul Craddock (Nigel Havers) has returned from the Boer War determined to use his inherited wealth to do good. Eschewing all advice, he buys the vacated Shallowford House, a mansion in Devon, becoming the squire of Sorrell Valley. The drama chronicles Paul's life as well as that of several other families living in the clannish community. After a brief courtship, Paul marries Grace (Fiona Gaunt), an independent spirit. Following the birth of their son, she leaves for London, and they eventually divorce. The Great War has a devastating effect on the valley but leaves Paul even more determined to preserve its heritage. **VERDICT** Although this 1978 series is old by TV standards and has a somewhat dated look, it's a solid story and should be popular with fans of British drama.—**Joan Greenberg, Warminster, PA**

The Inspector and the Sea: Season 2.
3 discs. color. 535 min. In German w/English
subtitles. Anno Saul & Thomas Roth, dist.
by MHz Networks, www.mhznetworks.com.
2014. DVD UPC 815047018242. \$39.95. F/TV

Gotland Island, located approximately 50 miles from the Swedish mainland, is the site of Viking villages, medieval castles, spectacular coastlines, charming cottages, summer festivals, and what must be the largest per capita crime rate in Scandinavia. From apparent suicides to blackmail schemes to murder at sea and more, Detective Superintendent Robert Anders and his investigative team are never without a



case to solve. In each of the six episodes in the second season of this popular international mystery series, the Visby police force must uncover and prove motive and identify suspects among a range of unconventional characters. Gradually revealed backstories about the island and the dashing German-born Kommissar, including his fear of water and his developing relationship with a local school teacher, complete the engaging and suspenseful drama. **VERDICT** For those who enjoy a good police procedural in the U.S. and British tradition, now seasoned with a distinctive Nordic twist.—**Linda Frederiksen, Washington State Univ. Lib., Vancouver**

Massacre Gun. 2 discs. b/w. 91+ min.
In Japanese w/English subtitles. Yasuharu
Hasebe, Arrow Films c/o MVDvisual, 800-
888-0486; www.mvdb2b.com. 2015. DVD/
Blu-ray combo UPC 760137720591. \$39.95.

Jo Shishido (*Branded To Kill*) stars in this black-and-white Japanese film noir as Kuroda, the hit man with a conscience. Kuroda tries to leave the gangster life after he is forced to kill his lover. Kuroda and his brothers, played admirably by Tatsuya Fuji (as Eiji) and Jiro Okazaki (as Saburo), try to take down the gangsters in town, with violent results. The noir style is fitting here, as the characters are mostly black or white, evil or good. The acting throughout is superb, and the direction from Hasebe (*Female Prisoner Scorpion: #701's Grudge Song*) is inventive, featuring unorthodox camera angles and quick edits. Extras include a recent interview with Shishido and critic Tony Rayns. **VERDICT** Fans of Hasebe, Shishido, Japanese films from the late 1960s, and film noir will enjoy this movie. Academic libraries with film study programs should consider purchase as well.—**Jason L. Steagall, Gateway Technical Coll. Lib., Elkhorn, WI**

ARTS & HUMANITIES

Impossible Light: Findaway. color. 70 min.
Jeremy Ambers in assoc. with Illuminate the
Arts, Mission Rock Pictures, dist. by Passion
River, www.passionriver.com. 2014. DVD UPC
633131631777. \$49.99. ART-GENERAL

Artist Leo Villareal combines LED (light-emitting diode) lights and encoded computer programming to create illuminated displays. His work "The Bay Lights Project" called for 25,000 LED lights to be installed on 300 suspension cables on San Francisco's Bay Bridge. The proposal was an audacious one, not only financially (the project cost \$8 million) but a technical challenge as well. The display would cover a 1.8-mile span and last for two years. An arduous fundraising venture preceded a nine-month installation phase that was met with numerous obstacles (power system failures, light cable