

## MEDIA

but Elaine's haunted heart of love becomes a gloriously twisted feminist valentine. **VERDICT** Biller's spellbinding film leverages the mannered formalism of classical Hollywood to transform her dark fantasia into an outstanding and subtle horror movie.—**Douglas Rednour, Georgia State Univ. Lib., Atlanta**

**The Migrants.** 90 min. Tom Gries, dist. by Kino Lorber, [www.kinolorber.com](http://www.kinolorber.com). 2017. DVD UPC 738329212131. \$19.95. F

TV viewers of a certain age will remember the award-winning *Playhouse 90* dramas on CBS. This adaptation of a Tennessee Williams screenplay about the Barlow family, migrant crop workers, was originally shown in 1974 as part of that well-regarded series. The Barlows are stuck in a cycle of poverty. Holding it all together is mother Viola (Cloris Leachman in a heartbreaking performance). Son Lyle (Ron Howard) dreams of better things and longs to leave for a big city where he will have more opportunities. When Lyle meets local girl Betty (Cindy Williams), the two plan their "escape," an action fraught with difficulty and guilt. Sissy Spacek plays Lyle's pregnant sister. One would expect a production of this age to look dated, which it does, and the audio is sometimes uneven. **VERDICT** Sadly, the problems of the poor and uneducated are timeless, making this drama as relevant today as when it was originally released. For larger public libraries.—**Joan Greenberg, Warminster, PA**

**Rake: Series 1.** 3 discs. 450 min. Peter Dungan & others, dist. by Acorn Media, [www.acornonline.com](http://www.acornonline.com). 2017. DVD UPC 054961256099. \$39.99. SDH subtitles. F/TV

Cleaver Greene (Richard Roxburgh) is the dictionary definition of a rake: dissolute philanderer, tax dodger, debt-ridden gambler, substance abuser, and thoroughly unreliable spouse, parent, friend, and colleague. He is also a successful and effective barrister, making for a courtroom comedy-drama that is both witty and engaging. Joined by a cast of equally diverting supporting characters and guests from in and around Sydney, the Australian barrister regularly takes both physical and emotional beatings as a direct result of his own ill-considered and self-destructive behavior. Persons accused of crimes from cannibalism to bigamy to bestiality, lovable louse Greene defends them all, even as he goes from one personal disaster to the next. The smartly written story lines combine timely and often amusing social commentary with the shambles that is Greene's private life. **VERDICT** Recommended for viewers who enjoy character-driven entertainment that is funny, with an undertone of something deeper.—**Linda Frederiksen, Washington State Univ. Vancouver Lib.**

★**Starlight.** 100 min. In French w/English subtitles. Sophie Blondy, dist. by Cleopatra c/o MVDvisual, [www.mvdb2b.com](http://www.mvdb2b.com). 2017. Blu-ray UPC 760137980087. \$19.95. F

This 2012 French production, written and directed by Blondy, tells the story of a group of circus performers struggling to attract an audience in a small seaside town while trying to prevent greed and jealousy from destroying the group's fragile bond. This quiet, quirky, and stylishly filmed tale centers on a clown (Denis Lavant), his dancer girlfriend (Natacha Régnier), and a singer (Béatrice Dalle) who is desperately trying to win the clown's heart. Meanwhile, other performers conspire to overthrow the group's immoral and unpopular manager (Tchéky Karyo), who has fallen in love with the dancer. Punk icon Iggy Pop is brilliantly cast in a nonspeaking but integral role as the unhappy, confused, and ultimately violent clown's guilt-ridden conscience, which magically materializes everywhere from puddles to sand dunes to jail cells and has a significant impact on how the story unfolds.

**VERDICT** Art house film fans are sure to enjoy this Federico Fellini-inspired offering, which features engaging characters; a compelling plot with surprising and satisfying twists; beautiful cinematography; and, of course, Pop's inimitable presence.—**Douglas King, Univ. of South Carolina Lib., Columbia**

## ARTS & HUMANITIES

**Concrete Love: The Architecture of the Böhm Family.** 88 min. Maurizius Staerkle Drux, dist. by First Run Features, [www.firstrunfeatures.com](http://www.firstrunfeatures.com). 2017. DVD UPC 720229917292. \$24.95; public performance \$295. ARCH

Germany's Böhm family have attained global notoriety for their innovative architectural designs. But the inspiration for those innovations is as intriguing as the creations themselves and is the subject of director Drux's new documentary. The film examines the lives and works of family and business patriarch Gottfried Böhm (b. 1920); his wife, Elisabeth (1921–2012); and their sons Peter, Paul, and Stephan. It shows how their individual experiences and personal interrelationships have shaped their love for and outlook on what constitutes good architecture, both artistically and as a means of fulfilling larger social purposes. As the title suggests, the documentary also details the architecture of the clan itself, especially how its members fit into this singular artistic and familial collaboration and how their individual standings are reflected in their finished works. **VERDICT** An unusual look at a gifted team effort, both from a creative and highly personal perspective. [See Trailers, *LJ* 3/1/17.]—**Brent Marchant, Chicago**

**I Am...Heath Ledger: "Don't Be Afraid To Fall."** 94+ min. Adrian Butenhuis & Derik Murray, dist. by Virgil Films, [www.virgilmfilmsent.com](http://www.virgilmfilmsent.com). 2017. DVD UPC 829567125724. \$19.99; Blu-ray UPC 829567125823. \$19.99. Closed-captioned. FILM

Blessed with boyish good looks, limitless energy, and creativity, Heath Ledger (1979–2008) set his sights early on pursuing a film career, leaving his home near Perth, Australia, for Hollywood. This documentary is a tribute to Ledger's career, calling him the "most alive human," "bigger than the world has room for." As a friend predicted, Ledger would quickly "clean up" (achieve success), securing lead roles in such films as *The Patriot* and ultimately an Oscar-nominated turn as a gay cowboy in *Brokeback Mountain*. In between film roles, Ledger experimented with drawing, photography, and making music videos, hoping eventually to move to film directing. Although he rejected the role of Spider-man, he eagerly embraced the part of the Joker in the Batman film *The Dark Knight*, which earned him a posthumous Best Supporting Actor Oscar. Eventually, his intensity, the conflicting demands of career and parenthood (he fathered a daughter with actor Michelle Williams) led to a lack of sleep and his untimely death from a toxic mix of prescription drugs. Like many visionary people, Ledger remains a bit of an enigma.

**VERDICT** With input from actor Naomi Watts, director Ang Lee, and others, this is a moving portrait of an artist gone too soon.—**Stephen Rees, formerly with Levittown Lib., PA**

**Searching for Victor "Young" Perez: The Boxer of Auschwitz.** color & b/w. 64 min. w/French & English subtitles. Sophie Nahum, dist. by EPF Media, [www.epfmedia.com](http://www.epfmedia.com). 2017. \$100; acad. libs. \$150. Public performance.

### SPORTS/BIOG

Perez (1912–45) lived a short, eventful, and improbable life. A Tunisian Jewish boxer, he became a European sensation as World Flyweight Champion in 1931 and perished in the Holocaust. There have been two recent films about his life: a solid dramatic presentation (*LJ* 10/1/15) and now a fast-paced and compelling documentary featuring European actor and history sleuth Tomer Sisley. Viewers follow the energetic Sisley as he pursues every lead to provide insight into the life of Perez. He finds Perez's old boxing buddies as he re-creates the dark anti-Semitic milieu in pre-World War II France. Perez seems to have retained his shine and attraction even as his career declined. The narration details Perez's transfer from France to the concentration camps and his demise on a death march when he was shot for trying to help others. Ultimately, the film is a hopeful one as