

# DVD QUICKIES

## Brief reviews and DVD news

It's been four years between release dates for Universal Home Video's *Night Gallery* Season 1 and Season 2 box sets. But it's better late than never. The five disc set contains almost every episode of the 2nd season, with the exception of the rarely seen "Witches Feast" episode and "Satisfaction Guaranteed." Unfortunately, Universal couldn't find these episodes in their vaults. Completists may find this disappointing, but I'd prefer Universal's honesty in this matter—the alternative is no set at all, and that would be a mistake. For the two missing pieces, Universal has more than made up for their absence with a wealth of extras. Guillermo del Toro provides audio commentary on several episodes, and *Night Gallery* historians Scott Skelton and Jim Benson add their commentaries on ten episodes. Rounding out the package are the featurettes "Revisiting the Gallery" and "The Paintings in Rod Serling's Night Gallery." The set retails for \$59.98.

Who are The Ghouligans? Imagine if the animated *Groovie Goolies* were live action as well. That's the best way I can sum up this horror/comedy troupe, whose DVD program is light fare that will please fans of Universal's monster brigade. The Ghouligans have several programs on their latest DVD release. If you're curious to learn about the new monsters on the block, check out their ad on page 12.

With rumors swirling around about a *Rocky Horror Picture Show* remake, the timing is good for Richard O'Brien's *Rocky Horror Tribute Show*. Sure, there's no Tim Curry, Susan Sarandon or Barry Bostwick, but O'Brien is the heart and soul of *Rocky Horror*. Original cast members Patricia Quinn, Little Nell and Rayner Bourton are back on board for this reunion of sorts. Recorded in 2006 at the Royal Court Theatre Upstairs (where *RHPS* originally began), the show comes full circle, and hasn't lost one bit of its enthusiasm. Let's do the time warp again . . . Indeed!

Some things get better with age. This can be said for Tesco Vee, the now 50 year old dude, who founded The Meatmen over 20 years ago. The three-hour-plus retrospective DVD, *The Devil's in the Detail*, is a wonderfully exhausting look at what Tesco has been up to the last few years. Punk rocker, avid toy collector, Satan worshipper, all around fun guy, Tesco is many things, but he'll never be labeled as boring! MVD Video sent this screener our way, along with *Copelutation*, a look back at the music videos of Julian Cope and the Teardrop Explodes; *Marc Almond: Live at the Lokerse Feesten 2000*; *Kraftwerk and the Electronic Revolution*; and, *Magical Mystery Tour Memories*, a dull look back at The Beatles bus tour to nowhere, featuring many local blokes who were there at the event, some known in the music industry, and most who are not.

### NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

Sam Fuller's controversial film *White Dog* (1982) finally comes to DVD from The Criterion Collection. The Paramount Pictures production never received a theatrical release in the U.S. due to its racial subject matter. It's a must see film, one you won't soon forget. At last—a film you can pair up as a double feature with Ssssss! BCI's *Stanley* DVD, is a fun fright flick from director William Greffe (*Death Curse of Tartu*, *The Hooked Generation*). BCI's Exploitation Cinema series continues to impress. Look for these double features—*Mausoleum/Blood Song*, *Cemetery Girls/Vampire Hookers*, *Satan's Slave/Terror*, *Nightmare in Wax/Blood of Dracula's Castle*, and *Horror High/Lurkers*. Many of these Crown International pictures could be found in Rhino DVD's inferior Horrible Horrors box sets (Volumes 1 & 2). Fans complained that Rhino dropped the ball on these titles, since several films were taken from edited prints. I'll give BCI credit—they listen to what genre purists have to say, and their Exploitation Cinema series are completely uncut. This is especially big news for fans of *Horror High* (a.k.a. *Twisted Brain*), since this will be the first time that the theatrical version is given the home video treatment.

### AND FINALLY . . .

Synapse brings *Patrick* back to life again after he (and the film) lay dormant on the Elite label. Synapse has added a few more extras than the previous disc—if you don't have the Elite disc, by all means revive *Patrick* the second time around. Echelon Films sent our way the indie features *Fersein's Gate*, *Chronicles of an Exorcism* and *Exit 38*. Severin's *Last House on the Beach* is on DVD for the first time in the U.S. (an expensive Region 2 import was previously available). Anchor Bay offers up *Jack Brooks: Monster Slayer*, *The Vanguard*, *Bryan Loves You*, *Breathing Room*, and *Five Across the Eyes*. Redemption Films has upgraded their previous Image Entertainment titles *Lips of Blood*, *Fascination*, and *Nude for Satan*, while adding new titles *Black Magic Rites*, *The Black Order Cometh*, *Satanic Sluts 2: The Black Masses*, and *Killer's Moon*.

