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DVD PLAYHOUSE: MARCH 2010

**By
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BLANK GENERATION (MVD) Classic movie of the punk rock era from 1980 stars legendary punker Richard Hell, and his band the Voidoids, as a group of up-and-comers who are profiled by a French journalist (gorgeous Carole Bouquet) visiting New York. Beautifully captures a time, and a city, long gone by, with cameos from many key figures of the era, including exec producer Andy Warhol as (what else?) himself. Bonuses: Live performances by Richard Hell and the Voidoids at CBGB; Interview with Hell. Widescreen. Dolby 2.0 mono.

2012 (Sony) Disaster epic from director Roland Emmerich, who has yet to re-capture the magic he made with *Independence Day*. John Cusack leads a cast that includes Chiwetel Ejiofor, Amanda Peet, Danny Glover and Woody Harrelson as they try to outrun nature's fury when the earth starts to literally give way with one natural disaster after the next in the year 2012, as foretold by the Mayans centuries ago. Eye-popping special effects and eye candy can't hide a barely-existent storyline, underdeveloped characters and sensory overload that overwhelms the viewer within the first 15 minutes. *Independence Day* was proof that you can have the eye candy, and enjoy your plot and characters, too. A disappointment, to say the least. Also available on Blu-ray disc. Bonuses: Alternate ending. BD bonuses: Picture-in-picture commentary with Emmerich; MovieIQ. Widescreen. Dolby and DTS 5.1 surround.