

SUBSCRIBE

LOGIN

VIDEO LIBRARIAN PLUS!

MEMBERS ONLY

Login/Subscribe

VL Review Database

Distributors Database

Video News Briefs

New Releases Calendar

Bi-Weekly DVD/Blu-ray Selection Guide

Resources

NEW VIDEO REVIEWS

FREE ACCESS

Video Movie Reviews

Docs & Other Reviews

TV & Classic Film Reviews

ABOUT VIDEO LIBRARIAN

Overview

FAQs

Subscription Info

New Issue Preview

DVD/Blu-ray Submissions

Advertising

Contact Us

Questions & Comments
vidlib@videoliberalian.com

New reviews of other videos not in the print version of Video Librarian.

Rating system: ★= poor, ★★= fair, ★★★= good, ★★★★= excellent

K = Preschool-Kindergarten E = Elementary (grades 1-3)

I = Intermediate (grades 4-6) J = Jr. High (grades 7-8)

H = High School (grades 9-12) C = Colleges & Universities

P = Public Libraries

Updated August 28, 2012

95 Miles to Go ★★★

(2006) 79 min. DVD: \$16.95. Video Services Corp. (avail. from most distributors).



Unlike Jerry Seinfeld's more illuminating documentary *Comedian*, which chronicled the painstaking process of creating a new standup act, *95 Miles to Go* is more of a video diary of Ray Romano's return to standup while his sitcom *Everybody Loves Raymond* was on hiatus. Released theatrically in 2006, the film took a long detour to DVD, and while the trip isn't exactly necessary, the affable and likeable Romano makes for good company. Along for the ride are friend and *Raymond* scribe Tom Caltabiano and an intern charged with videotaping the proceedings. The standup segments here are reliably funny, although one wishes there were more. The offstage moments capture life on the road (Romano is afraid to fly) and the documentary gets some mileage out of the easy camaraderie between the two friends (still, it would have been instructive during all those hours in the car to actually witness the creative process at work). Romano's act is relatively clean (he frets at one point about performing mildly off-color material at a corporate gig), although his offstage language is a little saltier. The hefty DVD extras include video commentary with Romano and Caltabiano, audio commentaries, two screening Q&As, a standup performance, and deleted and extended scenes. Recommended, overall. Aud: P. (*D. Liebenson*)

Iranium ★1/2

(2011) 60 min. DVD: \$24.95. Clarion Fund (avail. from most distributors).



A Middle Eastern despot with a frightening cache of weapons threatens to wreak havoc on the region and launch terror attacks against U.S. interests around the world. Sound familiar? Ten years ago, those accusations were aimed at Iraq's Saddam Hussein; today, an all-too-similar refrain is being directed at Iran's Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Filmmaker Alex Traiman's documentary opens with a thumbnail sketch of the fall of the Shah's regime and the rise of Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic theocracy, blithely asserting that Khomeini adopted an anti-American policy, but not bothering to mention that the Iranian people might have some grounds for being unhappy with the U.S. (Mohammad Mossadegh and the 1953 CIA-backed coup? Billions of U.S. dollars used to prop up the Shah's

brutal regime?) The Iranian nuclear energy program actually began under the Shah in 1978, but was put on indefinite hold after the revolution. *Iranium* argues that Ahmadinejad's government is seeking to build a nuclear stockpile that will further enhance the country's international terrorism operations. While Iran's nuclear program is unquestionably something to be concerned about, this documentary employs overly emotional scare-tactic filmmaking—which may not be surprising, considering that the Clarion Fund,