

VIDEO VIEWS... more than meets the eye

by Bob Morello

GLADIATOR II (4K Ultra HD/Blu-ray/Digital) Paramount Home Ent.

Director Ridley Scott's action-packed epic *Gladiator II* continues to thrill audiences around the world, and now fans will be able to relive the astonishing spectacle at home — along with a wealth of behind-the-scenes bonus content. From legendary director Ridley Scott, *Gladiator II* continues the epic saga of power, intrigue, and vengeance set in Ancient Rome. Years after witnessing the death of the revered hero Maximus at the hands of his uncle, Lucius (Paul Mescal) is forced to enter the Colosseum after his home is conquered by the tyrannical Emperors who now lead Rome with an iron fist. With rage in his heart and the future of the Empire at stake, Lucius must look to his past to find strength and honor to return the glory of Rome to its people. Fans who purchase the film on Digital or 4K Ultra HD will have access to over 100 minutes of fascinating behind-the-scenes footage and interviews. Discover the epic journey of the highly anticipated film as the cast and filmmakers share their personal experiences. Explore some of the exotic filming locations, including Malta and Morocco, and see the extraordinary sets that brought the Roman Empire back to life. Plus, enter the arena to find out how carefully choreographed combat and visual effects combined to deliver mind-blowing battles on a truly epic scale.

EVILENKO — LIMITED COLLECTOR'S EDITION (4K Ultra HD / Blu-ray) (Unearthed Films

A disgraced communist schoolteacher in Kyiv becomes a brutal, unfeeling serial killer. Based on the crimes of Andrei Chikatilo, based on the shocking true story of the former Soviet Union's most notorious serial killer, this riveting, haunting film explores the mind of a true monster; a man who mutilated and devoured more than 50 children. For years, Andrei Evilenko (Malcolm McDowell) eluded the obsessive Detective Lesiev (Marton Csokas) and the psychiatric profiler Aron Richter (Ronald Pickup). Spurred on by his rapid fury at the gradual crumbling of his precious Soviet Union, Evilenko is a man who will live, die and kill as a communist. The haunting melodies of composer Angelo Badalamenti and writer-director David Grieco's stark imagination have created a portrait of a serial killer that will resound in the psyches of us all.

THE MASK OF SATAN (Blu-ray) Severin Films

Writer/director Lamberto Bava delivers a modern-day reimagining of his father's classic *Black Sunday*, featuring FX by Sergio Stivalletti, with music by Simon Boswell, and hailed as "an impressive evolution of '80s Italian horror that not enough fans have seen." When a group of skiers become trapped in a crevasse, their discovery of a long-frozen female corpse will unfilmask

an ancient evil, unlock a portal of the damned and unleash a nightmare of Satanic vengeance. Mary Sellers, Deborah Caprioglio and Michelle Soavi star in this constantly escalating and fast-moving film.

ANTIVIRAL (4K Ultra HD) Severin Films

The award-winning debut feature by writer/director Brandon Cronenberg has been called "wild and creepy," "smart and subversive" and "hallucinatory body horror from the same plasma pool as VIDEODROME." Now it can be experienced in 4K UHD for the first time ever: Syd March (Caleb Landry Jones) is a top sales representative for The Lucas Clinic, which harvests exclusive infections from celebrities for injection into obsessed fans. But in a near future consumed by the possibilities of biological communion, will Syd himself pay a horrific price for the toxicity of fame? Sarah Gadon and Malcolm McDowell co-star.

DELICATESSEN (4K Ultra HD) Severin Films

Delicatessen has been called funny, and a stunning visual experience. Now fans can experience this video that has also been called a cannibal comedy. From co-writers/directors Jean-Pierre Jeunet & Marc Caro and producer Claudie Ossard, comes *Delicatessen*, all about odd jobs and strange neighbors, circus stars and troglodytes, fresh meat and true love. Dominique Pinon, Jean-Claude Dreyfus and Howard Vernon star in this tasty, easy to digest tale, now restored in 4K from the original camera negative.

THE LADY ASSASSIN (Blu-ray) 88 Films

From Hong Kong's legendary Shaw Brothers studio comes a blood-drenched story of ninjas, eunuchs and dark palace intrigue: the old emperor is on his last legs, and his most ambitious and amoral son plots to cheat his way to the throne. But taking power is the easy bit. Staying on top will prove much more difficult. Based on a particularly infamous chapter of Chinese history, *The Lady Assassin* mixes pageantry with some of the most awesome sword fights in any Shaw Brothers film.

DINOSAUR VALLEY GIRLS (Blu-ray) Visual Vengeance

Dinosaur Valley Girls enjoys its first time ever on Blu-ray, and is packed with hours of new and archival bonus features. Chain-smoking Hollywood action movie star Tony Markham is zapped back in time via a magic artifact to a prehistoric world of flesh-hungry dinosaurs, angry cavemen, and a tribe of exotic, love-starved cave girls. He must use his modern-day machismo and best karate moves to survive the onslaught of Jurassic horrors while wooing the literal cave girl of his dreams, Heather. *Dinosaur Valley Girls* playfully and skillfully dives headfirst into the subject matter, including creating a completely new language for the tarps. An epic world-building adventure, complete with stop motion dinosaurs, original music numbers, off-the-wall cameos and more.

The time has come, the walrus said,

TO TALK OF MANY THINGS of shoes and ships and sealing wax of cabbages and kings

by Sal Giarattani

A RECENT FUNDRAISER WAS HELD AT THE REEL HOUSE FOR STATE SENATOR LYDIA EDWARDS



Senator Lydia Edwards with Sean O'Brien
(Photo by Sal Giarattani)

Recently, I attended a Welcome Back to the District fundraiser for state Senator Lydia Edwards who just returned to the Senate District after completing boot camp training. Edwards besides being a state senator is also a Judge Advocate General (JAG Officer) in the Mass. Army National Guard. She enlisted in the national guard on October 30, 2023.

The fundraising event which I attended was hosted by Sean O'Brien, the International President of the Teamsters USA. A large crowd of supporters showed up to welcome her home. Elected officials from across the Senate district, friends, neighbors. As I say about these events. All the usual suspects were there. It was a great time for all and I believe takes us all out of winter and back into more ongoing receptions, fundraisers, community gatherings and more.

TRUMP GETS NO AMBIVALENCE FROM ANYBODY AND SO MUCH OTHER STUFF

People either love him like the best president ever or they hate his guts. No in-between to be found. Amazing how he has the power to bring out the best and worst in hearing range. Once we could chat with each other and laugh about current events. That's gone.

What just happened in the Oval Office was truly unbelievable. It was proof that live TV can be dangerous and quite unpredictable. Hey, at least there wasn't a cage-match set up for the cameras.

Personally, I thought Zelensky was a bit of an ingrate since we keep sending him barrels of money. What's it up to now; \$200 million? Or it could be zillions by now and if we keep sending him the dough, it could go up into the billions or gazillions.

As far as Europe goes, is this our problem? Let them finance Ukraine but if I was the Z-man I wouldn't place all my eggs into NATO or the Europeans. Britain, France or Germany, do any of them really trust each other? When it comes to boots on the ground, all of them usually mean U.S. boots.

WU:

SAFEST LARGE CITY IN AMERICA?

Mayor Wu keeps saying Boston is one of the most diverse and safest when it comes to America's largest cities. When it comes to feeling safe, tell that to all those diners over the weekend in town who

AND THEY CALL IT PUPPY LOVE !!!!



A good friend of mine, Renee Taylor, who makes a mean capuchino and lives in Winthrop has just adopted three cute little puppies from the same litter, one pup at a time. Their names are Willow, Meadow and Rowan. I guess if there was a fourth puppy, most likely it would have been named Martin as in Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In TV show from the '60s!

ended up witnessing some guy with a knife chasing people into a restaurant.

An off-duty cop saves the day when he was forced to kill the culprit but it seemed the first-person Wu thought about afterwards was the poor guy trying to kill people with a knife.

BIGGER BAD BRUINS TICKET PRICES

Did you notice how the Boston Bruins are raising ticket prices for next week after this year? If there was any justice in the world, the Bruins would be lowering ticket prices. However, people love paying more without complaining, don't they?

TAKE ME DOWN TURNS INTO PINK VINYL

I just found out from the electrifying guitarist Dom Petrosino that his Take Me Down band has a new name. They are now called Pink Vinyl. Wonder if they'll be playing some Pink Floyd? The band showed up last week over at Bianchi's on the Sandbar to a great crowd who seemed to be having a great time.

DECEASED SINGERS NEVER DIE ON PBS

Wanna bet, PBS will now be repeating all those old R&B, Motown concerts from decades ago in honor of the passing of Jerry Butler who just died the other day. Once again he will be 50-something years old again bringing us along with him for a visit back to yesteryear. Sometimes I swear PBS has no shame.

YOUR HOT DOG IS WAITING FOR YOU AT SULLIVANS

If you're into hot dogs, you might like to know that Sullivan's over at Castle Island just reopened March 1st, last Saturday, to a big crowd waiting to bite into the beginning of the end for winter. I've done it a couple of times less for the dogs and more for what is to

follow as we move into spring on the way to summer tanning again.

WHO PANICS OVER CHANGING CLOCKS?

Did you see any panic the other day when we had to turn our clocks forward into Daylight Savings Time. No one ever goes bananas when we turn the clocks forward. But turn them back and everyone starts tripping out over having to deal with it.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY IS ALMOST HERE

Hey, it is almost St. Patrick's Day over in South Boston. The parade is happening on Sunday, March 16. I was already over at the Seapoint Restaurant in Southie this past weekend for the annual General Know Evacuation Day breakfast. The hall was crowded, the food was hot and the bar was opened up for customers. They gave out several Unsung Hero Awards to members of the South Boston community like usual. The color of the day was green, of course. No other color would do.

IF YOU TOOK THE SPLASH, CONGRATS

By the way, they held another Shamrock Splash over at Shay's Beach in Eastie. Outsiders call it Constitution Beach but we locals know better. This year's splash was the 15th Annual JetBlue Shamrock Splash, a polar-plunging fundraiser for the Better Beaches Grant Program. I thought of plunging this year but when I woke up Sunday morning it was just way too cold for this old guy to hit the water. I did do a plunge several years back on New Year's Day over at L Street but I must confess the temperature was about 47 Fahrenheit on that day. Lots more folks show up for a plunge on a warm New Year's Day.

THE TAILEND

Spring is almost here. The worst is over.