



MAGNIFICENT WARRIORS
(Blu-ray)
88 Films

Magnificent Warriors is a high-flying action romp! International sensation Michelle Yeoh stars in this incredible adventure set against the backdrop of World War II. Yeoh portrays a wisecracking mercenary pilot with a leather jacket, gun, and bullwhip who sets aside personal greed to defend a small town and free its leader from the clutches of the invading Japanese army! Filled with spectacular action sequences, *Magnificent Warriors* seamlessly blends sly humor with thrills. Yeoh's martial arts prowess, comedic flair, and dramatic skills are fully brought to bear in this incredible follow-up to the classic *Royal Warriors*. The finale, in which the town, armed only with spears and stones, rises up against the heavily fortified Japanese forces, is not to be missed! Aerial battles, gun-fights, hand-to-hand combat, Michelle Yeoh ... *Magnificent Warriors* has it all!

CHILDREN OF THE MIST

(DVD)

Film Movement

In a village hidden in the mist-shrouded Northwest Vietnamese mountains resides an indigenous Hmong community, home to 12-year-old Di, part of the first generation of her people with access to formal education. A free spirit, Di happily recounts her experiences to Vietnamese filmmaker Há Lê Diêm, who planted herself within Di's family over the course of three years to document this unique coming of age. As Di grows older, her carefree childhood gives way to an impulsive and sensitive adolescence, a dangerous temperament for what will happen next; in this insular community, girls must still endure the controversial but accepted tradition of "bride kidnapping." One night, when the young girl's parents return home from celebrating the Lunar New Year, they are shocked to find their house is silent: Di has disappeared.

BELLE AND SEBASTIAN:

THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES

(DVD)

Film Movement

Based on the acclaimed children's novel by Cecile Aubry, *Belle and Sebastian: The Adventure Continues*, follows the courageous adventures of a young boy and his giant sheep dog amidst the stunning backdrop of the snow-covered Alps. In the sequel to the original film, it's September 1945, and Sebastian impatiently waits for the return of his friend Angelina, whom he has not seen for two years. When the plane carrying the young woman to her small village in the Alps is reported to have crashed in the mountains Sebastian is convinced that Angelina is still alive. Along with his faithful dog Belle, Sebastian embarks on the most dangerous adventure of his life.

THE KING OF LAUGHTER

(DVD)

Film Movement

The King of Laughter is a lavish period drama starring Toni

Servillo as Eduardo Scarpetta. At the beginning of the 20th century, in Bell Époque Naples, theatres and the cinema were thriving and the great comic actor Eduardo Scarpetta is the box office king. Known in the Neapolitan theater for his cheeky alter egos, Scarpetta's larger-than-life stage productions were matched only by his eccentric personal life. Composed of wives, partners, lovers, legitimate and illegitimate children (including a young Eduardo De Filippo, famed Neapolitan playwright), Scarpetta's home situation resembled one of his comedies more than a traditional family. In 1904, at the height of his popularity, the comedian risked everything by staging a controversial parody of the great Italian poet, Gabriele D'Annunzio's *The Daughter of Iorio*. Booned and hissed from the stage by younger rivals, Scarpetta was sued for plagiarism, leading to the first-ever copyright lawsuit in Italy. Despite the draining years of legal troubles and familial strife, Scarpetta fought not only for his craft, but also for his legacy as one of the great thespians of Italian theater, that would culminate in one of his last great performances.

ONE MORE STEP WEST IS THE SEA:
RUTH WEISS

(DVD)

IndiePix Films

From Berlin and Vienna in the 1930s; from New York to Chicago, New Orleans, Los Angeles, and San Francisco in the 1950s, '60s, and '70s; one of the great women Beat poets, Ruth Weiss, has written, performed, painted, and filmed the fact that for her, "one more step west is the sea..." Thomas Antonic traces her pioneering art and her world without boundaries. In her 90s, her life is a grand collage that transcends the Beat. She is the cosmic refugee among the ecstatic memories of counter-culture. In his feature-length directorial debut, Beat scholar and award-winning poet Thomas Antonic traces Weiss' pioneering art and her world without boundaries. Antonic explained:

The life story of Ruth Weiss is a pioneering and intensely artistic one. Raised as a Jewish girl in Berlin and Vienna, and fleeing to the U.S. with her family in 1938 to escape the Nazis, Weiss engaged in creative circles in Chicago and New Orleans, and soon after graduating from high school. Hitchhiked across the States, and emerged as a singular poet in San Francisco in the early 1950s. She was one of the first artists to develop the joint genre of Jazz & Poetry and interacted with greats of the Beat Generation, such as Jack Kerouac, Neal Cassady, and Bob Kaufman, although as a woman her more famous male counterparts usually overshadowed her. It was only when she was in her 70s that she gradually gained the recognition due her. She consistently maintained her unique Bohemian lifestyle well into old age, even performing on stage at 90-years-old.

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 Giarratani

LATEST FROM MY INBOX



Hey Sal,

I love your article regarding your cat Smokey and how she is your new cat because Nica has gone over the rainbow bridge into kitty heaven.

A couple years ago I had a stroke and had to move back in with my mom. I felt so lonely and depressed and asked her if it was okay to get a cat. After some searching I found these lovely people who were willing to drive a total of 3 hours just to bring her to me. She is a blue Russian cat named Jazzy. She has been the love of my life and gets me through every day. I have had multiple cats and will always love and cherish them and their memories with me such as, Dutchess, Gatino, Snowball, and Princess. Jazzy wakes me up in the mornings with her paw gently tapping my shoulder and is also waiting at the door when I get home. Animals are so amazing and the connection is always genuine. Thank you for your article regarding Smokey what a beautiful cat!

— Maria G.

ALWAYS BE SURE TO FOLLOW YOUR OWN ADVICE

"Wanting to be somebody else is a waste of the person you are."

— Kurt Cobain

SENSELESS VIOLENCE STRIKES AGAIN

On Sunday, January 30th, a 13-year-old boy ends up dead on a Mattapan street when he was shot multiple times while walking to visit his grandparents as he had done numerous times before.

His mother beside herself said, "I climbed the ladder, I moved to Norwood, I did everything that I thought I was supposed to do to give my son a chance."

Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden said the Tyler Lawrence shooting appears to be deliberate; it was not a random act of violence. Another street-corner flowery memorial has been set up to mark this latest death.

Our city leaders need to do more than hold fly-by press conferences. There is a crisis going on in parts of our city where few feel really that safe, day or night. Actions speak louder than words and the time to start is now. It is time for the whole community, activists, faith leaders, and parents to demand action on violence across our neighborhoods reeling from one horrible killing to the next to unite and be heard. You can't have hope in the future if you can't make it into the future.

28 YEARS LATER AND THE SAME BOOK COULD STILL BE WRITTEN

Back in the nineties, I read *Amazing Grace* by Jonathan Kozol, and recently started re-reading it again a few weeks back and sadly very little improvement can be seen in how our young children across this rich nation are still any better off than the previous generation. Many young children are still struggling living in impoverished pockets in many of our depressing cities across the nation. When it comes to hope for a better tomorrow, there is the irony that tomorrow's hope might be found on the other side of the Star Gate.

HOW DIFFERENT ARE THINGS TODAY?

The reality for most is no different than the reality of the parents and grandparents of today's impoverished. The subtitle of Kozol's book was *The Lives of Children and The Conscience of a Nation*. Sadly, it would appear our conscience has been MIA for decades. The places Kozol traveled nearly 30 years ago are still with us today and in some cases even worse off if that can be said.

AT 86

WHAT DOES KOZOL SEE TODAY?

Back when he wrote *Death at an Early Age* he was an idealistic 28-year-old. In 1995, when he wrote *Amazing Grace*, his idealism has been jaded by first-hand observation and then was 59 years old. Sadly, if he were to update either of those two books not much has changed for the better in his now 86-year-old eyes. Back in the 1964-65 school year, he taught at the Dearborn School if memory serves me well. That public school was around the corner from where I lived. My parents didn't send me there, thank God; they sent me to St. Rita's Grammar School in the very same neighborhood where the minds and spirits of children somehow escaped the torment of hopelessness.

If you don't know who Kozol is or what he wrote, you need to check out his works.

ARETHA FRANKLIN'S LADY SOUL ALBUM

Aretha Franklin's *Lady Soul* album turned 55 years old. This album was released way

back on January 22, 1968, and like everything she did, she did it well. I can't believe it came out back when I was 19 years old

THE MUSIC OF MY LIFE

Any regular reader of this column know how much I love good music. One day last week while listening to Sirius 49 Soul Town, Ken "Spider" Web played two great R&B hits in a roll. The first, "Stop to Start" by Blue Magic. The second, "We're a Winner" by the Impressions. Makes my ride home that much easier.

REPUBLICANS GET NECESSARY RE-BOOT

I have been a Republican and Democrat over the years, and currently registered as an unenrolled voter, and like it this way. I have many Republican friends due to my conservative leanings and truly hope the MassGOP returns to its role as an actual political party rather than the Drama Club it has become.

The internal war within the Republican State Committee under Jim Lyons' tenure as party chairmanship hasn't helped at all. With warring factions at each other's throats, the party practically disintegrated as far as being a political force hereabouts.

I congratulate new state party chair Amy Carnevale who just won the chairmanship in a tight race over Jim Lyons, 37-34. Hopefully, the recent two years of infighting will end and everyone can begin to work together going forward. The drama always seemed more personal than ideological.

The MassGOP must do the work of building this party from the ground up at the local level. You can't just elect governors; you must start at the grassroots with ward committees, town committees, and city committees. Get more ward and precinct Republicans involved in the building of an actual political party.

ANOTHER ROCK CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY

Rock guitarist Mike Campbell of Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers celebrated his 73rd birthday on Wednesday, February 1st.

QUOTE TO NOTE

"In New York today, it's not just that crime pays. Being law-abiding costs you."

— Douglas Murray, *New York Post* columnist, January 27th

• **News Briefs** (Continued from Page 1)

her parents. "People don't know how dangerous the contents of those tin cans can be," said her dad on BBC.

The British Aerosol Manufacturers' Association, in response, said the deodorants have "very clear warnings."

Omar's Whiting Over GOP Move

U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Michigan, is upset over House GOP moves to deny her committee assignments. Omar reportedly now believes Speaker Kevin McCarthy is moving against her because she's a Muslim. Her critics deny such talk. They see her tendency to make "highly publicized blatantly anti-Semitic remarks and her lapses in judgment on policies."

According to Noah Rothman at *Commentary Magazine*,

"Republicans should do what they can to prevent Omar from having the power to pursue her conspiratorial ambitions."

Schiff Shifts to Senate

U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff has announced he will be running in the crowded 2024 Senate race, saying Democrats "need a fighter." The 62-year-old congressman will be facing off to date with U.S. Reps. Katie Porter and Barbara Lee, and incumbent U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein in a Democratic primary.

End Quote

"Someday, maybe, there will exist a well informed, well-considered as yet fervent public conviction that the most deadly of all possible sins is the mutilation of a child's mind."

— Erik Erikson