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DVD Corner: Rincon DVD by/por: Eric Gonzalez

English



 $\star\star\star\star\star$ POETIC, NOBLE., ONE OF A KIND.





Ray Harryhausen Collectible (Sony Pictures)

Street + Los Angeles, CA 90013

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When we see films with great special effects - monsters that look almost real, for example --, we immediately think about Steven Spielberg, George Lucas, and all those movie mavericks that have broken all kinds of box-office records through their magic. But, the truth is that most of this genius is the result of the work of Ray Harryhausen, whose hand-made animations are just mesmerizing, and have survived the test of time. Now, for our delight, Sony has released a fantastic and historic collectible DVD set that features three early films featuring Harryhausen's work, including "It came from beneath the sea" (1955), "Earth vs. the Flying Saucers" (1956), and "20 Million Years to Earth: 50th anniversary edition" (1957). The six-disc edition presents digitally-remastered black & white originals, plus a new colorized version. In addition, each film's DVD is loaded with special features, such as audio commentaries, interviews, and much more. Furthermore, the set also includes an awesome Ymir figurine designed Harryhausen in 1957.

In the Pit (Kino International)

"In the Pit" begins by telling us that "fifteen million souls and three million vehicles" move around Mexico City every day. Such numbers required immediate action by the government, as to avoid such congested situations, in a city known for its smog. The very engaging and charming "In the Pit" successfully presents us aspects of the construction of the so-called "the second deck," which was meant to be the "longest elevated freeway in the history of the city." To





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accomplish this, director Juan Carlos Rulfo interviews construction crews, some of which work in extremely dangerous conditions. We witness their camaraderie at work and aspects of their personal life. At the same time, Rulfo slowly shows us how this awesome enterprise evolves and takes shape. The final scene is just mesmerizing. This is great document of our times. (Mexico, 2006, color, 84 min)

Spirit of the Marathon (Image Entertainment)

I don't know about you, but, when it comes to the Olympics, the one event that really catches my attention is the marathon, which I

consider to be the most grueling of all the sports, and it takes a very special person to reach the finish line as a winner. "Spirit of the Marathon" remarkably captures the sacrifice that these athletes go through to reach their goal. The film, which won the Audience Choice Award in the 2007 Chicago International Film Festival, chronicles the time preceding the 28th Chicago Marathon in the lives of some average runners, as well as some Olympians. We see scenes of them training and taking about what it means to them to run the marathons. Director Jon Dunham ably interjects marathon history between these scenes, including Abebe Bikila's and Dorando Pietri's memorable runs. This film is truly dramatic and inspiring. The DVD includes a making-of documentary. (USA, 2007, black & white and color, 102 min plus additional material)

The Beach Boys and the Satan (ABC Entertainment)

The Beach Boys is, without a doubt, a seminal band in the history of Rock & Roll. "The Beach Boys and the Satan" is a fascinating and absorbing German documentary in which the filmmakers not only present aspects of their work and legacy, but also connect this band with Charles Manson, whose tribe was responsible for the brutal assassinations of Sharon Tate and others on August, 1969. Through interviews with several players, including Brian Wilson – the so-called band's brain --, we learn about the relation between Beach Boy Dennis Wilson – who tragically died in an accident – and record producer Terry Melcher, who at one time lived in 10050 Cielo Drive, site of the murders. The DVD has plenty of music and, in a very creative way, documents the bands career, especially the classic "Pet Sounds," giving us a starting point to explore their music and history. (Germany, 1997, color and B & W, 59 min)

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