

Rob Freese's  
BEST OF THE  
SPAGHETTI WEST

ARROW FILMS

(\$39.95 2-disc Blu-ray) 11/15

REQUIESCANT (1967) ♂♂♂

D: Carlo Lizzani. Lou Castel, Mark Damon, Pier Paolo Pasolini, Barbara Frey, Mirella Maravidi. 92 mins.

After Officer George Ferguson (Damon) commands his men to slaughter all the inhabitants of a Mexican village to take possession of their land, one boy survives and is found by a good-hearted preacher and his wife, who raise him with their young daughter. Years later, the daughter, Princy (Frey), runs away for a life in the city. Requiescant (Castel) vows to his adoptive parents that he will find his sister. When he does, she is being held prisoner and forced into prostitution. In a series of bizarre events, the young man learns not only that he's a natural gunman, but the man who had killed everyone in his village runs the town where his sister is being held. When Princy is unmercifully murdered, Requiescant (Latin for "Rest in Peace") goes on a bloody rampage of revenge against Ferguson and his men. Much has been written about the political underpinnings in this film but taken solely as a shoot-'em-up it is quite an enjoyable picture. One of the film's real highlights is a drunken shooting competition between Castel and Damon, wherein a frightened young woman holding a candelabra offers the flickering flames as the game's targets. Castel wins you over early and plays the innocent bumpkin well. As his father, filmmaker/actor Pasolini is also a strong character, who gives the young gunfighter a moral grounding. Extras on Arrow's **Requiescant** (aka **Kill and Pray and Let Them Rest**) Blu-ray include interviews with star Castel and director Lizzani, plus the original trailer. Should not be missed.

BLUE UNDERGROUND

(\$39.98 2-disc Blu-ray/DVD) 10/15

GET MEAN (1975) ♂♂♂

D: Ferdinando Baldi. Tony Anthony, Lloyd Battista, Raf Baldassarre, Diana Lorys, David Dreyer, Mirta Miller. 90 mins.

The Stranger (Anthony) is tied to a horse and dragged into a mysterious ghost town inhabited by gypsies. He's offered \$50,000 to accompany Princess Maria (Lorys) back to Spain; however, they arrive in the middle of a battle between a clan of barbarians and the Moors. When the princess is taken captive, The Stranger agrees to save her for his reward but finds himself on a bizarre journey

to locate the lost treasure of Rodrigo. In the end, he's a one-man army against the barbarians. With his four-barrel shotgun and his body strapped with dynamite, The Stranger blows up everything in his path. Based on a story idea by producer and star Anthony, this is a truly wild but enjoyable adventure that never takes itself too seriously. Anthony plays the everyman role well and gets away with a number of cheesy lines that most actors wouldn't dare try to recite. ("I don't know nothin' about no barbarians.") This was the fourth and last film in **The Stranger** series that began with **A Stranger in Town** and was followed by **The Stranger Returns** and **The Silent Stranger** (aka **The Horseman and the Samurai**). (The first three flicks are available as a set from Warner Archive.) More fantasy than spaghetti western, this may not appeal to all tastes. Extras include a commentary by Anthony, co-writer/star Battista and executive producer Ronald J. Schneider, various interviews, trailers, deleted scenes, radio spots, stills gallery and a booklet featuring a brief history of **The Stranger** films by Howard Hughes.

KINO LORBER FILMS

(\$29.95 Blu-ray, \$19.95 DVD each) 8/15

FACE TO FACE (1967) ♂♂♂♂

D: Sergio Sollima. Tomas Milian, Gian Maria Volonte, William Berger, Jolanda Modio, Gianni Rizzo, Carole Andre. 93/112 mins.

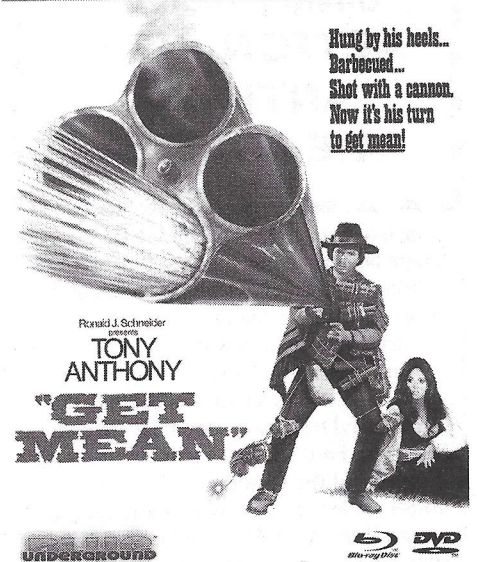
When Professor Brett Fletcher (Volonte) has to retire because of his health, he heads West to live out his remaining days. After being taken captive by wanted outlaw Solomon "Beauregard" Bennet (Milian), he joins the group and gets involved with planning a number of heists. While Bennet is seen more and more as a hero of the people, Fletcher slowly becomes power-hungry and quickly goes from mild-mannered to brutally violent. Siringo (Berger) is a lawman who infiltrates the banditos and tries to trip Bennet up at every turn. The film ends with these three men facing off, loyalties changing, new alliances emerging. This is an exhilarating story with a uniformly excellent cast, especially the always dependable Milian, who can change your opinion of his character from one scene to the next. Ennio Morricone provides another wonderful score. Kino's Blu-ray includes both the American version and the longer, original Italian version. Highly recommended.

NAVAJO JOE (1967) ♂♂♂1/2

D: Sergio Corbucci. Burt Reynolds, Aldo Sambrell, Nicoletta Machiavelli, Tanya Lopert, Fernando Rey, Franca Polesello, Lucia Modugno. 93 mins.

Duncan (Sambrell) leads a posse of mercenaries on a hunt for Indian scalps. Attacking peaceful tribes and slaying their women and children, Duncan soon learns that he and his men are now wanted for murder. Killing the sheriff, he takes over the town with brutal force and is hired by a doctor to get in on a train heist that will net the bandits half a million in cash. What none of the

2-DISC LIMITED EDITION



crooks count on is a pissed-off raid survivor, Navajo warrior Joe (Reynolds), who is relentless in his quest for vengeance against the gang. This is a lean, mean, nonstop action drama packed with knife stabbings and gun blastings. Filmmaker Corbucci never lets up. Crazy Italian stuntmen enliven the tale with some truly harrowing horse stunts—a couple might jolt you up out of your seat. This is not the Burt Reynolds many of us grew up watching in various **Smokey and the Bandit** and **Cannonball Run** movies. This is a much younger Burt who was coming from an extensive TV background, making his bid for the big time on the silver screen. He is a delight to watch, and Sambrell plays off him well as his slimy archenemy. The Ennio Morricone soundtrack is just as iconic as his work in Sergio Leone's "The Man with No Name" Trilogy and showed up again years later in **Kill Bill Vol. 2**. Rousing entertainment. Extras include the theatrical trailer and an audio commentary by film historian Gary Palmucci. ♂

REST OF THE WEST

Kino Lorber leads the way on the domestic western front with a pair of ace Joel McCrea showcases, the surprisingly harsh existential cavalry saga **Fort Massacre** (1958), sort of the **Ulzana's Raid** of its day, and the more conventional but still entertaining **The Gunfight at Dodge City** (1959), with JM as a fast-drawing Bat Masterson. 1950s prairie perennial George Montgomery scores one of his best entries, Sidney Salkow's Zane Grey-based winner **Robbers' Roost** (1955), featuring a fetching Sylvia Findley (in one of only two big-screen appearances, along with **Black Tuesday**), Richard Boone as a charismatic outlaw leader and Tony Romano as colorful singing henchman Happy Jack. Lee Marvin is at his ornery best in Richard Fleischer's gritty **The Spikes Gang** (1974) as a grizzled magnet for youthful wannabe desperados Ron Howard, Charles Martin Smith and Gary Grimes. The discs are priced at \$29.95 Blu-ray, \$24.95 DVD.