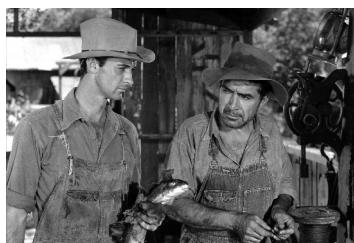




### FRANCO-AMERICAN PICK *The Southerner*, Kino Lorber, \$29.95

JUST BEFORE HIS CAREER-DEFINING ROLE as the hedonistic playboy in *Mildred Pierce* (“I do too much of everything. I’m spoiled”), Zachary Scott gave one of the great American performances in Jean Renoir’s limpid depiction of a hard-scabble Texas cotton farmer raising his own crop for the first time. Though he was born into a wealthy Austin household, Scott is thoroughly persuasive as a man of the soil who draws strength from his wife (Betty Field) and kids (Jay Gilpin, Jean Vanderwilt), and transcendent satisfaction from tilling and seeding the land. Beulah



Bondie’s grotesque Granny undercuts the family scenes, but Renoir’s life-embracing sensibility and veracious, atmospheric style sweep you up in the change of seasons and volatile environments. The film’s haunting possum hunt and nightmarish, disorienting flood are as visceral and poetic as the rabbit shoot in *The Rules of the Game*.—Michael Sragow

### MODERN CLASSIC PICK *A Brighter Summer Day*, Criterion, \$29.95

A LIGHT BULB DANGLES in the middle of the frame, and an anonymous hand illuminates it, summoning forth a widening gyre of teen angst, social repression, and rock ’n’ roll. Just under four hours long, Edward Yang’s long-unavailable epic about warring gangs in 1960s Taipei isn’t shy about wielding a few heavy symbols, but moment by moment, it more than earns its monumentality. Like Yang’s swan song *Yi Yi*, his 1991 masterpiece navigates the intricacies of its plot with understated elegance, in a tone pitched perfectly between outrage and resignation. Emboldened by the end of almost four decades of Taiwanese martial



law, Yang countered the era’s political silence with an intergenerational chorus of over 100 speaking parts, resulting in a film that bursts at the seams with its own conflicting sympathies. The suspense lies in watching how such a densely constructed, defiantly lived-in world is unraveled by all that’s still unsaid and unsayable.—Andrew Chan

### ACTION PICK *Nikkatsu Diamond Guys, Volume 1*, Arrow Video, \$49.95

ARROW VIDEO CONTINUES to shine a welcome light into the dark corners of Japanese genre cinema with this superbly mounted three-film set devoted to Nikkatsu action films from the late 1950s, even if one of these actor-focused selections is not especially representative of the performer in question. Best taken as a directors’ survey, the set bundles *Voice Without a Shadow* (58), an overly complex but worthwhile newspaperman thriller from the early career of Seijun Suzuki; *The Rambling Guitarist* (59), a formulaic but dazzling color “Eastern Western” shot on location in the far north of Japan by workmanlike director Buichi Saito; and the gem of the bunch, the mood-dripping noir *Red Pier* (58), pictured, from Nikkatsu’s number-one genre merchant, Toshio Masuda. Firing on all cylinders, with an attractive cast, gorgeous production design, shadowy cinematography, and a dark, jazz-drenched score, Masuda’s film shows just how successful studio “assembly-line” genre filmmaking can be in the right hands.—Marc Walkow



9. **The Brave One** Irving Rapper, 56; VCI \$19.99
10. **Dillinger** John Milius, 73; Arrow Video \$39.95
11. **A Mighty Wind** Christopher Guest, 03; Warner Archive \$21.99
12. **Pieces** Juan Piquer Simón, Sp./U.S./P.R./It., 82; Grindhouse Releasing \$44.95
13. **The Holcroft Covenant** Frankenheimer, 85; Kino Lorber \$29.95
14. **Village of the Damned** Wolf Rilla, U.K./U.S., 60; Shout! Factory \$34.93
15. **Taviani Brothers x 3: Padre Padrone**, It., 77; *The Night of the Shooting Stars*, It., 82; *Kaos*, It./Fr., 84; Cohen Media \$49.98
16. **L’Inhumaine** Marcel L’Herbier, Fr., 24; Flicker Alley \$39.95
17. **My Boyfriend’s Back** Bob Balaban, 93; Mill Creek \$9.98
18. **Donovan’s Brain** Felix Feist, 53; Kino Lorber \$29.95
19. **Kill Me Again** John Dahl, 89; Olive Films \$29.95
20. **The Stuff** Larry Cohen, 85; Arrow Video \$39.95

### CULT CORNER

**The Million Eyes of Sumuru** Lindsay Shonteff, U.K., 67; Blue Underground \$19.98

### HOT DOCS

1. **A Poem Is a Naked Person** Les Blank, 74; Criterion \$29.95
2. **The Kennedy Films of Robert Drew & Associates: Primary**, 60; *Adventures on the New Frontier*, 61; *Crisis*, 63; *Faces of November*, 64; Criterion \$39.95
3. **We Come as Friends** Hupert Sauper, Fr./Aus., 14; BBC Worldwide \$24.98
4. **The Pearl Button** Patricio Guzmán, Fr./Sp./Chile/Switz., 15; Kino Lorber \$29.95
5. **Killing Them Safely** Nick Berardini, Can./U.S., 15; MPI \$24.98
6. **Miroslav Janek x 2: The Unseen**, Czech Rep., 96; *Hamsa, I Am*, Czech Rep., 98; Facets \$29.95 each
- A Ballerina’s Tale** Nelson George, 15; IFC \$24.98
- Becoming Bulletproof** Michael Barnett, 14; Virgil Films \$19.99
- Cartel Land** Matthew Heineman, Mex./U.S., 15; Paramount \$29.99
- Censored Voices** Mor Loushy, Isr./Ger., 15; Music Box \$29.95
- Chet Zar: I Like to Paint Monsters** Mike Correll, 15; First Run \$24.95
- Children of the Stars** Bill Perrine, 12; MVD \$12.95
- CodeGirl** Lesley Chilcott, 15; Kino Lorber \$24.95
- Crazy About Tiffany’s** Matthew Miele, 16; FilmRise \$24.95
- A Dog Named Gucci** Gorman Bechard, 15; MVD \$19.95

