

# video

## FICTION

**Blood Bath.** 2 discs. b/w. 90+ min.

Jack Hill & Stephanie Rothman, Arrow Films  
c/o MVDvisual, [www.mvdb2b.com](http://www.mvdb2b.com). 2016.

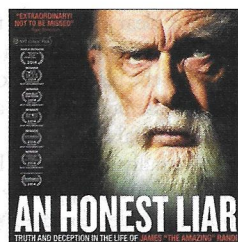
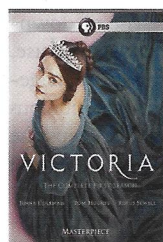
**Blu-ray UPC 760137843597. \$49.95. F/HORROR** Antonio Sordi (William Campbell) is an artist known to local beatniks as a hack, but among well-heeled art enthusiasts he is famous for his ghastly “Dead Red Nudes” paintings. In truth, when overcome by bloodlust, he transforms into a vampire and acts out his strange desire to kill while being taunted by ghostly images of the woman who led to his death hundreds of years ago, a woman who looks just like his current beloved (Lori Saunders). *Blood Bath* is a fractured gem of dime-store magnificence in the form of a horror film so surreal it’s compulsively watchable. This set has all four versions of the film as it was reshot and reedited over years while producer Roger Corman attempted to get a product that worked commercially. **VERDICT** Cinema students and drive-in movie aficionados will delight in this amazing look at the creative process.—**Douglas Rednour, Georgia State Univ. Lib., Atlanta**

★ **Cat People.** 2 discs. b/w. 73+ min. Jacques Tourneur, dist. by Criterion, [www.criterion.com](http://www.criterion.com). 2016. DVD ISBN 9781681432021. \$29.95;

**Blu-Ray ISBN 9781681432014. \$39.95. F/HORROR** Lovely Irena (Simone Simon) is swept off her feet in a whirlwind affair by a wonderful guy (Kent Smith). Before long the couple are married, but this arrangement brings to light Irena’s darkest fear: owing to a family curse, if she kisses her husband, much less consummates the marriage, she will be transformed into an evil giant cat who will kill the man she loves. Director Tourneur and producer Val Lewton crafted a towering achievement in dark entertainment with *Cat People*, delivering excellent characterization with sophisticated fright. It also features one of the earliest examples of the now ubiquitous “jump scare,” in a powerfully spooky sequence of menace unsullied by age and overexposure of the technique. **VERDICT** One of the most sublime creations in the horror cannon, it works on every level as art.—**Douglas Rednour, Georgia State Univ. Lib., Atlanta**

**Janet King: Series 2; The Invisible Wound.** 3 discs. 463+ min. Peter Andrikidis & others, dist. by Acorn Media, [www.acornonline.com](http://www.acornonline.com). 2016. DVD UPC 054961250196. \$49.99. SDH subtitles. F/TV

It’s not easy being Senior Crown Prosecu-



A regal series that will fascinate viewers; an “amazing” performer discredits swindlers

tor Janet King (Marta Dusseldorp). She accepts the chairmanship of a royal commission charged with scrutinizing gun violence and the source of illegal weapons flooding New South Wales (Australia). Although some members of her team (mostly the same characters from Series 1) think of her as an “ice queen,” she makes many personal sacrifices (and a few mistakes) in her search for justice. There is always the hope that the inquiry will uncover the person behind the unsolved murder of Janet’s romantic partner. And while she struggles to keep the personal and professional separate, she is often fighting those who are in a position to ruin her career. **VERDICT** A strong cast and impressive cinematography contribute to a quality production. Viewer discretion is advised owing to strong language, violence, sexual situations, and nudity. Recommended for public libraries where legal series are popular.—**Joan Greenberg, Warminster, PA**

**L.M. Montgomery’s Anne of Green Gables.** 90+ min. John Kent Harrison, dist. by PBS, [shoppbs.org](http://shoppbs.org). 2016. DVD ISBN 9781627897907. \$19.99. SDH subtitles. F/TV This new television adaptation of the popular 1908 L.M. Montgomery novel follows the early months of young Anne Shirley’s (Ella Ballentine) adventures at Green Gables, a small family-run farm on Canada’s Prince Edward Island. The 11-year-old orphan has been knocked around a bit by life but quickly takes to kindly Matthew (Martin Sheen) and his sister, the more demanding Marilla Cuthbert (Sara Botsford), even though farm life may not be Anne’s cup of tea. The Cuthberts had requested that the orphanage send a boy to help with the work, and Anne is a surprise in more ways than one. **VERDICT** A lovely production, this feel-good family film is recommended for most public libraries.—**Joan Greenberg, Warminster, PA**

**Midsomer Murders: Series 18.** 3 discs. 557+ min. Alex Pillai & others, dist. by Acorn Media, [www.acornonline.com](http://www.acornonline.com). 2016. DVD UPC 054961251599. \$49.99; Blu-ray UPC 054961251698. \$59.99. SDH subtitles. F/TV

In this British mystery series based on the

novels by Caroline Graham, each case takes place in the imaginary rural English county of Midsomer, whose quaint villages host a seemingly endless variety of backdrops for murder and where Detective Chief Inspector John Barnaby (Neil Dudgeon) is tasked with making sense of the clues. To lighten the mood, ample time is provided for Barnaby to negotiate generally humorous situations revolving around his wife (Fiona Dolman) and pet dog Sykes. The current set brings the number of episodes available to 110 since its 1997 inception. Over the decades, the cast has changed and the local population has grown more diverse, with people of color and same-sex couples, but the vibrancy of the intricately constructed puzzles remains. **VERDICT** Highly recommended escapist viewing for all fans of traditional British whodunits.—**Lawrence Maxted, Gannon Univ. Lib., Erie, PA**

**The Park Bench.** 79 min. Ann LeSchander, dist. by Dreamscape Video, [www.dreamscapeab.com](http://www.dreamscapeab.com). 2016. DVD UPC 85732606243. \$24.99; public performance \$199.99. F

Emily (Nicole Hayden), a lover of literature, is hired to tutor Mateo (Walter Perez), an immigrant and first-generation college student. Although they come from dramatically different backgrounds and have little in common, their friendship gradually develops during the instruction (on a park bench) as they discuss literature, life, aspirations, family, and favorite folklore (illustrated with whimsical animated drawings). Emily, who is working on a master’s degree in library science, is engaged to a man who first and foremost provides her with stability. Mateo recognizes that his feelings for her have changed from like to love, but Emily’s single-mindedness keeps her from acknowledging the spark between them. **VERDICT** There are few surprises as to how this story ends, but the two very likable protagonists make getting there an enjoyable experience.—**Joan Greenberg, Warminster, PA**

★ **Victoria: The Complete First Season.** 3 discs. 480+ min. Tom Vaughan & others for Masterpiece, dist. by PBS, [shoppbs.org](http://shoppbs.org). 2017. DVD UPC 841887030922. \$49.99; Blu-Ray UPC 841887030939. \$59.99. SDH subtitles. F/TV

Long before she was a rarely amused, dour dumpling of a monarch perpetually clad in black, Queen Victoria (1819–1901) was a young woman in love. This stellar new series, based on the historical novel by Daisy Goodwin, begins when an 18-year-old Alexandrina Victoria receives word that her uncle, the King of England, has died and she is now the new ruler of the British Empire. With help from her beloved Prime Minis-