

video

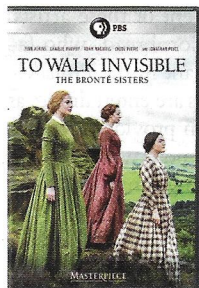
FICTION

Deep Water. 2 discs. 221+ min. Shawn Seet, dist. by Acorn Media, www.acornonline.com. 2017. DVD UPC 054961252794. \$39.99; Blu-ray UPC 054961254293. \$39.99. SDH subtitles. **F**

At Bondi Beach, a popular surfing and resort community near Sydney, Australia, a brutal murder of a young gay man sets off a police investigation that spans nearly three decades. Newly assigned to the local police force and to partner Nick Manning (Noah Taylor, *Game of Thrones*), single mother Tori Lustigman (Yael Stone, *Orange Is the New Black*) quickly sees a personal connection to a series of unsolved murders of gay men from the late 1980s. Instead of immediately solving the case and several subsequent attacks, that revelation puts Tori in conflict with her commanding officer and places everyone linked to the case in mortal danger. Layers of past deception and corruption are uncovered, even as the body count continues to mount. **VERDICT** Despite a somewhat convoluted plotline, this suspenseful four-part drama series is recommended for adult viewers who enjoy police procedurals in visually stunning international locations.—Linda Frederiksen, Washington State Univ. Vancouver Lib.

Home Fires: The Complete Second Season. 2 discs. 6 hrs. Robert Quinn & John Hayes, dist. by Masterpiece for PBS, shoppbs.org. 2017. DVD UPC 841887029056. \$39.99; Blu-ray UPC 841887029308. \$49.99. SDH subtitles. **F/TV**

It's the summer of 1940 in England's rural Great Paxford. Air raids have become a part of life, though many residents deal with crises closer to home. When the husband of Frances Barden (Samantha Bond) dies suddenly, she is stunned to learn of his long-term affair with one of his staff. Meanwhile, her friend Alison (Fenella Woolgar) is pressured to monitor the Barden factory for possible illegal activity. And with her abusive husband away, Pat Simms (Claire Rushbrook) finds happiness with a Czech soldier stationed near the village, but what will happen when the brutish Bob returns? This series is about friendship and how these women, already under considerable stress from the war, support one another through good times and bad. **VERDICT** Inspired by Julie Summers's nonfiction book *Jambusters*, this touching historical series was cancelled after this season, leaving some story lines unresolved.



The bleak life of writerly siblings; a daughter reveals her mother through film

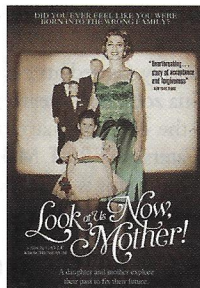
Given that caveat, there is much to admire in these very likable women and their lives. Recommended for public libraries.—Joan Greenberg, Warminster, PA

The Other Barrio. 91 min. Dante Betteo, dist. by SF Noir Films, www.theotherbarrio.com; Midwest Tape, www.midwesttape.com. 2017. DVD \$39.95; acad. libs. \$200; public performance; home version \$20. **F**

Documentary filmmakers Betteo and Louis F. Dematteis present their first narrative feature film in this adaptation of Alejandro Murgula's short story of the same name, which first appeared in *San Francisco Noir*. Set in San Francisco's Mission District, it follows the investigation by building inspector Roberto Morales (co-screenwriter Richard Montoya) of a deadly fire at a hotel. Morales, who grew up in the district, uncovers a pattern of evictions and displacements of poor, marginalized Latinos and other people of color by corrupt developers and politicians intent on gentrifying the neighborhood to cater to affluent individuals working in the booming tech industry. A strong script and cast bring this dark story and its characters to life. It also examines the area's vibrant Latino society and what is lost through gentrification and unchecked economic growth. **VERDICT** An engaging film for viewers interested in Latino culture and urban development.—Stephen L. Hupp, West Virginia Univ. Parkersburg Lib.

★**Vamp.** 94+ min. Richard Wenk, dist. by Arrow Video c/o MVDvisual, www.mvdb2b.com. 2017. Blu-ray/DVD combo UPC 760137948186. \$29.95. HORROR COMEDY

In exchange for a better apartment, Keith (Chris Makepeace) and AJ (Robert Rusler), along with rich car-owning, friend-seeking nerd Duncan (Gedde Watanabe), agree to find a memorable stripper for a party. After getting chased by a gang of thugs, they arrive at a dive lounge that features the otherworldly Katrina (Grace Jones) as the main attraction. AJ visits her to enquire about her rates but instead is drained of blood by the immortal vampire and thrown into a dumpster. Searching for his best friend,



Keith teams up with eccentric waitress Amaretto (Deedee Pfeiffer), but the pair are soon neck-deep in fang-faced fiends looking for healthy veins to tap. Shot in decaying downtown mid-1980s Los Angeles, *Vamp* captures a real sense of that city's character while delivering a rollicking good time at the movies, with sultry Jones's luminously untamed presence as the iconic title bloodsucker. **VERDICT** A hilarious horror comedy that manages the exceptional feat of being both funny and scary, occasionally at the same time.—Douglas Rednour, Georgia State Univ. Lib., Atlanta

ARTS & HUMANITIES

Hieronymus Bosch: Touched by the Devil. 89 min. In English & Dutch w/English subtitles. Pieter van Huystee, dist. by Kino Lorber, www.kinolorber.com. 2016. DVD UPC 738329210625. \$29.95. Closed-captioned. ART-GENERAL

Hieronymus Bosch (1450s–1516), the medieval painter of nightmarish canvases, is a mysterious figure of which little is known today. His 25 existing works are owned by various art museums worldwide. As Holland's Noordbrabants Museum in Den Bosch (hometown of Bosch) prepares to mount an exhibit for the 500th anniversary of the artist's death, the curators and historians must deal with intricate negotiations to borrow those institutions' holdings. Although this documentary brings up some fascinating asides, such as how infrared technology reveals images hidden beneath the paint, or how Bosch uses owls again and again in his paintings, the focus here is predominantly on the political and business aspects of the negotiations. **VERDICT** This dry, slow-paced film will be a disappointment to viewers hoping for more information about the enigmatic artist.—Phillip Oliver, formerly with Univ. of North Alabama, Florence

★**Wall Writers: Graffiti in Its Innocence.** color & b/w. 78+ min. Roger Gastman, dist. by Kino Lorber, www.kinolorber.com. 2017. DVD UPC 738329214029. \$29.95. ART/SOC SCI

Graffiti has been around almost as long as people have been writing. In 1960s New York and Philadelphia, writers used marking pens and then spray paint, and the early writers (starting with Julio 204 in 1967) wrote for nothing more than the joy of seeing their names and the knowledge that others would take note. *Wall Writers* covers an era that lasted until the end of the so-called innocence of tagging, in 1972, when designs and color exploded and were later co-opted, commercialized, and became the global phenomenon we know today. The issue of artistic freedom vs. vandalism is an unresolved subtheme, although the filmmakers are clearly reveling in the talent, ingenuity,