



LA DOLCE VITA

(Blu-ray) / Paramount Home Ent.

Federico Fellini, arguably the most popular filmmaker of all time, had his biggest hit with *La Dolce Vita*, an incredible international crossover, an exquisite meditation on personal morality, wealth and fame, societal decay, and the perpetual search for meaning. Both a critique of the culture of stardom, and a look at the darkness beneath the seductive lifestyles of Rome's rich, the film follows a notorious celebrity journalist over one crazy week. Starring Marcello Mastroianni, Anita Ekberg, Anouk Aimee, and Yvonne Furneaux, the film is lauded for its complicated and rich story wrapped in extravagant visuals that have become as iconic as the film itself. With iconic imagery, including the mesmerizing Trevi Fountain sequence, the movie has influenced a generation of filmmakers, including Martin Scorsese. Equal parts of provocative and breathtaking, *La Dolce Vita* has stood the test of time, remaining one of the most influential films in cinematic history, more than 60 years after its debut. Also included is a brand new introduction by Scorsese, who shares his thoughts on the film and its indelible impact on cinema.

DANCING PIRATE

(Blu-ray) / Film Detective

A dance teacher from Boston (Charles Collins) is tricked into joining a band of pirates, who lead him to being fitted for a noose in California. He catches a break when the mayor's daughter (Steffi Duna) demands the handing be postponed until he teaches her to waltz, but his problems are only beginning. *Dancing Pirate* (1936) received an Academy Award nomination for "Best Dance Direction." Distributed by RKO Radio Pictures, this mix of comedy and rousing dance numbers a blend of traits as, charming, light and gay.

GHOST RIDERS

(Blu-ray) / Verdugo

Revenge is a hearty meal for phantoms of the prairie! On a dark and haunting night, all that is visible by the campfire light is the breath of vicious lawmen. The local preacher and townspeople gather on a lonesome prairie, as the lawless career of desperado Frank Clements is about to end. Just as the hangman's noose tightens around his neck, the most feared outlaw of 1888 shouts a curse of revenge on the town preacher — a curse, which will haunt the preacher's family through generations. One hundred years later, unsuspecting of the events in 1888, the town is prospering. Frank Clements and his gang return from hell to seek revenge against the preacher's grandson and his family. The fight against the phantoms from the past proves futile, and they become unwilling victims of

bloodthirsty outlaws. Weapons are defenseless against the phantom cowboys — you can't kill what's already dead!

AN AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN LONDON

(Blu-ray) / Arrow Films

One of the greatest directors of the 1980s, John Landis, expertly combines macabre horror with dark humor in the lycanthropic classic, *An American Werewolf in London*. While hiking on the Yorkshire Moors, American tourists David (David Naughton) and Jack (Griffin Dunne) are savaged by an unidentified vicious animal while hiking. David awakens in a London hospital to find his friend dead, and his own life in disarray. Retiring to the home of a beautiful nurse (Jenny Agutter) to recuperate, he soon experiences disturbing changes to his mind and body, undergoing a full-moon transformation that will unleash terror on the streets of the capital. *An American Werewolf in London* had audiences howling with laughter and recoiling in terror upon its cinema release. Landis' film has gone on to become one of the most important horror films of its decade, rightly lauded for its masterful set-pieces, uniquely unsettling atmosphere and truly groundbreaking, Oscar-winning special makeup effects. Now newly restored and presented with an abundance of extra features, this big beast of horror can be devoured as never before.

COME DRINK WITH ME

(Blu-ray) / Arrow Films

Years before Shaw Brothers' kung fu films made them the biggest film studio in Hong Kong, local audiences flocked to their wuxia pian films: mythic tales of sword fighting (and often gravity-defying) heroes fighting for honor. In his final film for the studio, *Come Drink With Me*, director King Hu broke fresh new ground in martial arts storytelling, and catapulted fresh-faced lead actress Cheng Pei-pei to stardom in the process. When the Governor's son is taken hostage by bandits, a mysterious swordsman named Golden Swallow (Cheng) is hot on their trail to ensure the son's release. What the bandits don't realize, however, is that Golden Swallow is actually a woman, and that the hostage is her brother. Determined to set him free, no matter how many goons she has to fight her way through in doing so, she is aided in her quest by a drunken beggar (Yueh Hua) who may have a closer connection to the bandits' leader than he initially lets on. Decades before Ang Lee brought the wuxia genre to international attention with *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (in which Cheng played the villainous Jade Fox), and King Hu set the original template in what is still considered one of Shaw Brothers' greatest and most influential action masterpieces.

The time has come, the walrus said,

TO TALK OF MANY THINGS
of shoes and ships and sealing wax of cabbages and kings

by Sal Giaratani

SHOULD WE REBRAND IT AS "SNOW WHITE AND SEVEN AVERAGE HEIGHT GUYS WITH FUNNY NAMES"?

Actor Peter Dinklage called out the live-action remake of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, and Disney had their Mickey Mouse ears on, too. The actor slammed the new film as backwards when it comes to the subject of dwarfs.

Disney in response said the filmmakers will be working with culture consultants to improve the story.

Oh, by the way, Dinklage stands 4 feet, 4 inches tall.

LATELY I'M FEELING SOMEONE PUT A MALOCCHIO ON ME

Boy, have I had a terrible six weeks. I feel like a groundhog who just wants to stay in his hole. First, I was surrounded by vaccinated family members for Thanksgiving dinner, yet I came down with the omicron variant. Thank God, I was vaccinated and only had mild symptoms of traveling aches and pains throughout my body for four days.

Then, on January 2nd, a beautiful Sunday while driving through the North End, my car was damaged by a double-parked F-350 built like a tank. Then again, four days later on January 6th, a school bus leaving the Elliot School trying to turn left crashes in the back driver's side, adding insult to injury for me. My beautiful bright red Dodge Dart gets all damaged. The insurance company adjuster shows up at the body shop, looks at my car, and declares it totaled. I was still making payments on the vehicle and then my car was history.

I am still trying to figure out if either my car or I had a (Malocchio) thrown our way. I grew up never believing in getting cursed, but I did know that my Sicilian grandma used to cure many of her neighbors from the "Malocchio." I might even drink the awful drink my grandma gave her patients. My dad said once when mom wasn't looking, he drank the elixir and it tasted god-horrible.

SAM LAY'S SONG ENDS ON BLUES NOTE

The Chicago blues drummer, who performed and recorded with Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, and Bob Dylan has died at age 86. Sam Lay died from natural causes on January 29th. Longtime friend and member of his band stated Corky Spiegel stated, "An era is over. He just made you fly. He sucked you into the music. He went wherever the music went."

2,000 MULES, DINESH D'SOUZA LATEST MOVIE

Dinesh D'Souza latest movie targets the 2020 elections. It is an anti-ballot harvesting and anti-drop-box voting look at

alleged 2020 political corruption. There is actual footage showing one vote harvester dropping off bundles of ballots at 20 drop-off boxes 53 times. Surely, the woke mob will call this movie just another attempt at misinformation or disinformation, right? I can't wait for this movie documentary.

AIRLINE CENSORS MASK ON BOARD

A passenger on a Spirit Airlines flight claims he was required to remove his electronic face mask featuring the glowing slogan, "Let's go Brandon," along with the letters FJB. The passenger was a Trump supporter not surprisingly and he was handed another mask to replace what was on his face.

The flight attendant thought the mask was apparently offensive and told him to "... go ahead and put the blue one on, OK?" The passenger replies "This isn't America anymore." What do readers out there think?

GARFIELD HAS A GREAT POINT

I love reading the comic pages in newspapers and have been doing so since childhood. My two favorite stripes are *Charlie Brown*, actually Snoopy, and *Garfield* the wise cat. Recently, he said something worth repeating, especially during this pandemic we still suffer through.

His words of wisdom, short and sweet, "The secret to happiness is lowering your expectations." How true, how true!

WHOOPI GOLDBERG SAID A MOUTHFUL

It is hard to believe but then it isn't with Whoopi Goldberg. She actually thinks she's so smart when she is as dumb as a rock. On *The View* she is so silly. All the co-hosts on this show seem to commute daily from stupidity to ignorance. However, even her co-hosts were shocked to hear such a twisted view of the Holocaust not being about race and pushed back on her. Then taking plenty of friendly fire, she tried apologizing somewhat but it seemed to make matters worse. She received a two-week suspension because the cancel culture always eats its own.

Personally speaking, *The View* is one dumb show with nothing redeemable about it. I hate the idea of blacklisting or censoring those with views you

disagree with, but I will make an exception for Whoopi. Couldn't happen to a better person.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TIME AGAIN AND AGAIN

I can't believe it? Tommy Smothers just celebrated his 85th birthday. I remember back in 1968, when the *Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour* was a big, big on Sunday nights. Tommy and younger brother Dickie hosted this show and always were getting into trouble with CBS network head honchos for saying or doing something crazy on the show. Back when I was a 20-something college student, it was a great time and sometimes outrageous between the war, protests on campus, and the hot political temper. Anything could and often did happen. But week after week, the Smothers brothers made us laugh and cry and hope for better tomorrows. Once again, happy birthday to Tommy. I didn't know he was born on Groundhog Day. I pretty much think Tommy is hoping to celebrate Groundhog Day for years to come. Always good to wake up in the morning over and over again.

WHY PRIMARY SUNUNU IN N.H.?

Sometimes I just don't understand Trump's logic as he recently sought out a GOP candidate to challenge incumbent Gov. Chris Sununu in the upcoming state primary. Former President Trump is very unhappy with Sununu and seemingly doesn't consider him a loyal Republican. Trump had wanted Sununu, according to sources who know, to run for the U.S. Senate against incumbent Maggie Hassan, but Sununu decided to run for reelection instead.

Right now, the Democrats hold both U.S. Senate seats, and if the GOP puts another Republican candidate for governor in the race, it could lead to the Democrats winning back the governor's seat. Would Republicans benefit by weakening Sununu in a primary fight or is Sununu still better than a Democrat as governor?

Trump seems to have thin skin and thin skin is a negative in politics. Trump should have just stayed with Sununu and found a good GOP U.S. Senate candidate to take on Hassan who could be beaten in 2022.



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