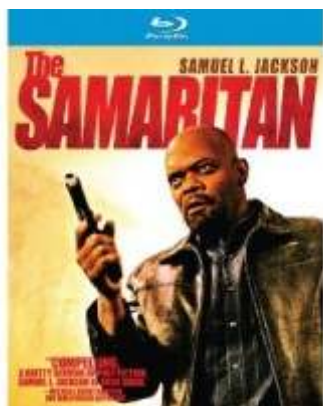




Portlandia: Season Two

Pitch: Put a bird on it...

Why Rent? Fred Armisen and Carrie Brownstein are co-creators and lead actors in this often hilarious skewering of the denizens of Portland, Oregon. The key to its success is that the jokes are never mean spirited and instead are made with love for the wonderfully weird people and their oddly endearing quirks. Season two consists of ten episodes featuring some returning characters from season one and lots of new ones. As with any sketch comedy (including Armisen's *SNL*) there are hits and misses, but when they're on target here they truly deliver the laughs. Also available on DVD. [Extras: Featurettes, deleted scene, commentaries]



The Samaritan

Pitch: Looks like someone saw *Oldboy*...

Why Rent? A convicted felon (Samuel L Jackson) gets out on parole and tries to lead a good life, but his past catches up to him along with old acquaintances who force him back into his grifting ways. This is in many ways a fairly straight forward thriller about an ex-con struggling with his new found freedom, but there are a couple surprises within. Probably the biggest one is seeing Jackson actually acting again. Seems like it's been forever since he showed off his chops in anything more than cameos or riffs on his *Pulp Fiction* persona. Also available on DVD. [Extras: Trailer]
