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MARKET PLACE

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- > Trooper & The Legend Of The Golden Key (2011/E1 DVD)/12 Dogs Of Christmas: Great Puppy Res
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- > 247°[Degrees]F (Anchor Bay Blu-ray/all 2012)
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- > Vexed: Series One (2010)/Waterloo Road: Series 1 (2006/Acorn DVDs)
- > A Princess For Christmas (2011/Lionsgate DVD)/Thomas Kinkade: Christmas Miracle (2012/Gaia
- > Something Big (1971/National

**Paul Rodriguez: Just For The Record (2012/Image DVD)/Peace, Love & Misunderstanding (2011/IFC/MPI DVD)/Portlandia: Season Two (2012/VSC Blu-ray Set)/That's My Boy (2012/Sony Blu-ray)**

Picture: C/C/B/B-    Sound: C+/C+/B-/B-    Extras: C-/C-/C/D    Main Programs: B/D/C+/D



Here are some of the latest comedy titles to consider seeing or skipping...

One of stand-up comedy's great survivors is back with one of his most personal routines in **Paul Rodriguez: Just For The Record** (2012) where the more-successful-than-you-think comic gets very honest, autobiographical and down to business joking about what has been happening lately, human nature, politics and where we stand as a country.

At 93 minutes, this is one of the best stand-up comedies we have seen on DVD to date and shows Rodriguez in rare form in a new personal best peak that is sadly not being seen or heard by enough people. His timing, bluntness and personability make him one of the best in the business and this release is more than enough evidence of that. Kudos too to the stage design. Some extra jokes are the only extra.

Next is a would-be counterculture comedy, Bruce (**Driving Miss Daisy**) Berseford's **Peace, Love & Misunderstanding** (2011) wants to be a smart throwback to the past, though set today, but just gets more preposterous until it becomes ridiculous and flatlines. Catherine Keener is dumped by her husband (Kyle MacLachlan), but instead of getting mad, she takes her kids and goes to Woodstock, New York to visit her somewhat estranged Summer of 1967 mother (played amusingly, if not totally believably by Jane Fonda, who makes sense to cast buy does not ring totally true here believe it or not) in a film that tries way too hard to be a comedy.

Between how unfunny and implausible the script becomes, the historical and pop culture references piling up, this gets goofier and goofier until it feels like an overbloated telefilm. Jeffrey Dean Morgan shows up as a new love interest as does an also-appropriately cast Rosanna Arquette, but the entire project becomes too enamored and self-impressed with itself, has no edge or any moment that feels real as soon as mom takes the kids away so we have a dud that could have worked with some discipline and something to say. This has zilch to say. Extras include a trailer and featurette.

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**IN STORES NOW**

- > Phenomenon (1996/Touchstone Blu-ray)
- > Hunt (2010/aka The Hunt/MVD DVD)
- > Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles – The Complete 10th and Final Season (1996/Lionsgate DVD Set)
- > Batman: The Dark Knight Returns – Part 1 (2012/Warner Premiere/DC Comics Blu-ray)
- > Dexter – The Complete Sixth Season (2011/Showtime Blu-ray)
- > Fringe – The Complete Fourth Season (2011 – 2012/Warner Blu-ray)
- > The Scar Crow (2009/MVD DVD)
- > Holy Flying Circus (2011/Acorn Media Blu-ray)
- > Resident Evil: Damnation (2012/Computer Animated/Sony Blu-ray) + Resident Evil: Retribution (2012/Titan Books Paperback Adaptation by John Shirley)
- > Sister Act (1992) + Sister Act 2 (1993/Disney Blu-ray + DVD)
- > The Good Wife – Season 3 (2011 – 2012/CBS DVD Set)
- > Night Of The Living Dead (1990/21st Century Pictures/Columbia/Sony/Twilight Time Limited Edition Blu-ray)
- > The Beatles: Magical Mystery Tour (1967/Apple Corp/EMI Blu-ray)
- > Dark Shadows (2012/Warner Blu-ray w/DVD)
- > Rock Of Ages: Extended Edition (2012/Warner Blu-ray w/DVD)

The Lorne Michaels-produced absurdist sitcom **Portlandia: Season Two** (2012) with Carrie Brownstein and Fred Armisen arrive don Blu-ray and though it at least has some amusing moments and fun guest turns by Penny Marshall, Jeff Goldblum, Eddie Vedder and Tim Robbins, it is more of the same hit or miss humor we found in the debut season covered at this link:

<http://www.fulvuedrive-in.com/review/11376/Absolutely+Fabulous:+Absolutely+Eve>

I do like the idea that something eccentric is a moderate hit versus the usual junk, but we get a series of occurrent skits ala Tracey Ullman and unless you like most of the set-ups, the show will disappoint or just stay steady. All 10 half-hours are here plus bonus material including the leads and Jonathan Kristel offering audio commentary on four select episodes, two specials tied to the show, excerpt from a new tie-in book release, a deleted scene and longer director's cut of the *Brunch Village* episode.

Last and least is one of the worst films of this or any year with another **Saturday Night Live** alum, Adam Sandler, dragging down fellow **SNL** alum Andy Samberg (who also appears on that **Portlandia** season above) in the catastrophically horrid money-loser and brain killer known as **That's My Boy** (2012) directed (if you can call it that) by Sean Anders going for an all-0time hack award.

The premise (if you can call it that) has goofy oaf (Sandler in a role that is not a stretch in the least) finds out that he fathered a son (Samberg playing 18-years-old?) as 'dad' is about to get married. A horrid mess follows that is a waste of 116 minutes of perfectly good human living in which even James Caan is conned (hope the paycheck was big enough) into participating (one of his worst appearances ever anywhere) with mostly unfunny unknowns trying for career suicide we gather.

Sandler still has his contract with Sony (without **Hotel Transylvania**, when did he really make money for them or anyone in recent years?) that should be cancelled for breach of contract, but not being funny is not illegal, though Sandler is on the verge of making it so for all comic talents (I use that last word loosely with him).

This is worse than my words could ever begin to describe, but avoid this dud at all costs.

The 1080p 1.78 X 1 digital High Definition image transfer on **Portlandia** is the best-looking of all the titles here with nice definition, consistency and color throughout, while the 1080p 2.35 X 1 digital High Definition image on **Boy** is not as good with more motion blur, detail issues, color limits and some sloppy camerawork. The anamorphically enhanced DVDs are much softer with the 1.78 X 1 image on **Rodriguez** just too soft and with some motion blur that distracted, while the 2.35 X 1 image on **Peace** was almost softer with more motion blur and only color to save it from being worse.

The DTS-HD MA (Master Audio) 5.1 lossless mix on **Boy** is sadly about the best-sounding of the four releases, but oddly, the lossy Dolby Digital 2.0 Stereo on **Portlandia** has nice Pro-Logic surrounds, is fuller than the previous season and can compete with the Sandler mess that has sound too much towards the front speakers as well as the center channel. The lossy Dolby Digital 5.1 on **Peace** is too peaceful with a dialogue-based and quiet moments sometimes interrupted by mixed music and surrounds kicking in, so the lossy Dolby Digital 2.0 Stereo on **Rodriguez** manages to be able to more than compete with it.

- Nicholas Sheffo

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