

NEW RELEASES

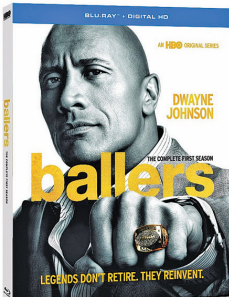
THE LATEST DVD, BLU RAY & VOD RELEASES

By John Moore

BALLERS: THE COMPLETE FIRST SEASON

(HBO Films)

Surprisingly, Duane Johnson has found a role that requires no physicality whatsoever and as a result ends up proving to be a pretty solid actor. The HBO series Ballers pairs Johnson, an ex-football player, with go-to comic foil Rob Corddry, as part of a wealth management firm in Miami where the duo specialize in signing NFL players. Created by Stephen Levinson (Boardwalk Empire, Entourage) the show has created a nice balance of soft-handed drama and tight, smart humor. And despite being produced by Mark Wahlberg and Levinson and centering around the sports world, there is a surprisingly low bro-factor with Ballers.



SYNCHRONICITY (Magnolia)

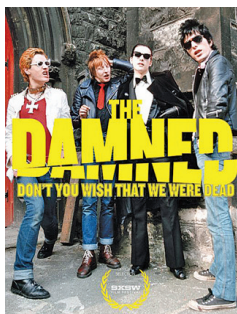
Synchronicity wants to be a smart, gripping sci-fi feature that uses time travel as a warning. In reality, the movie is a pretty tepid exercise in predictability with zero suspense and eye roll-inducing dialogue. The movie centers on three scientists that turn to a rich businessman to fund their experiment in time travel. The evil businessman (one of many clichés

in the movie) tries to take over the rights to the invention as one of the scientists goes back in time to try and prevent this from happening. I can't help but think there's a joke here about going back in time to get back the 90 minutes spent watching this movie.



THE DAMNED – DON'T YOU WISH THAT WE WERE DEAD (Cleopatra)

As the filmmakers of this doc prove with the opening segment of the film, a series of man-on-the-street interviews asking punk fans if they know The Damned (most don't), the British godfathers of punk rock never really got the respect they deserved. They were the first punk band from the UK to release a single but never got the fame that followed bands like the Sex Pistols and The Clash. This doc does a commendable job of tracing back The Damned's beginnings as well as the fractured state of relationships between original band members now. Told through interviews with members as well as fellow musicians (including Lemmy, Chrissie Hynde, Mick Jones and many, many more), Don't You Wish That We Were Dead is a great tribute to a band the deserves to be remembered.



Asner from page 21

That was stuck in the drawer?

Yeah it was just in the junk papers on my desk! I think it said Humphrey Bogart got 37 grand a week, at least that's what it was on paper. I came here in '61 and my first trip to MGM was like the magic city on the hill. Beautiful, spacious and hallowed. Marlon Brando was in the cafeteria when I went for lunch. I was in awe. Then a very short few years later, it had become dingy and grey and the streets were crowded with baggage and equipment. The city on the hill had been exterminated. I find that the industry itself is of that same nature now. Bottom line, bottom wage. The religion of America which was film, has been tremendously diluted.

Yet there are still some great projects going on.

Oh yeah, if I had the time - my hearing doesn't allow me to do much listening - I would watch shows like The Good Wife and Law and Order and Criminal Minds all day. And all the great specials on cable.

And that brings us back to the matter at hand, Lou Grant paved the way for a lot of the Steven Bochco type shows, for example.

Well Bochco was an MTM producer,

so that's where he learned his lesson in practice.

Let's talk about some of your new projects. You've gotten a lot of mileage out of the one-man FDR show.

I have, but it seems to have run out of steam after four or five years. Now I've embarked on a new one-man show by Ed Wineberger who was producer-writer on Mary Tyler Moore and Taxi and a bunch of other stuff. It's a personal account one-man show called A Man and His Prostate.

You have a string of new projects with intriguing titles.

Oh you mean "Getting Ed Laid"?

That one and Caio Caio Bang Bang, too. And Supersex.

Well, Caio Caio I haven't done yet, I'm waiting on the call

for it. Supersex is a Matthew Modine caper, starring his daughter. You know it's based on the old joke. The kids decide to give their ol' dad a thrill, so they hire a hooker. She goes to the old man's door, knocks on it. He opens it up and she goes, "I'm here to give you super sex!" His response in the joke is, "I'll take the soup."

Is this a short, or is this a full-length feature? No pun intended.

Hey, now! Ok, it's a short.

Season One of Lou Grant is now available from Shout! Factory www.shoutfactory.com and via online and retail outlets.

LUNACY ABOUNDS THIS SUMMER



BY BENJAMIN CARR

LADY DYNAMITE (Netflix)

Lady Dynamite, Netflix's new sitcom from the makers of Arrested Development, is a showcase for star Maria Bamford, who is an incredibly successful stand-up comic whose career was sidelined when she was diagnosed with bipolar disorder. In the show, Maria is attempting to rebuild her life in Los Angeles with the help of her agent Bert Ben-Bacharach (Fred Malamed). The structure of the sitcom though, flashes back to Maria's life before her diagnosis where she worked with a cutthroat agent named Karen Grisham (Ana Gasteyer) and her time in recovery living with her parents (Mary Kay Place and Ed Begley Jr.) in Duluth, Minn.

Scenes from every time period in Maria's life are shown in every episode which should be jarring but viewers can quickly adapt to the story and just go with it. And this show rewards its viewers exponentially. The show is inventive, strange and funny. Some episodes revel in being odd or silly, with Maria imagining herself in hair commercial or breaking the fourth wall by talking about whether she should actually show stand-up comedy on her show. At another point, she's providing voices for an animated show called "Foxcatcher Babies," which seems to be a cute animal version of the Channing Tatum-Steve Carell true-crime movie. And there is a break-up scene joke in the second episode that makes the entire series worth watching. More than anything, though, Lady Dynamite attempts an in-depth investigation of what depression and mental illness are truly like and what someone fighting to maintain their sanity can truly achieve.

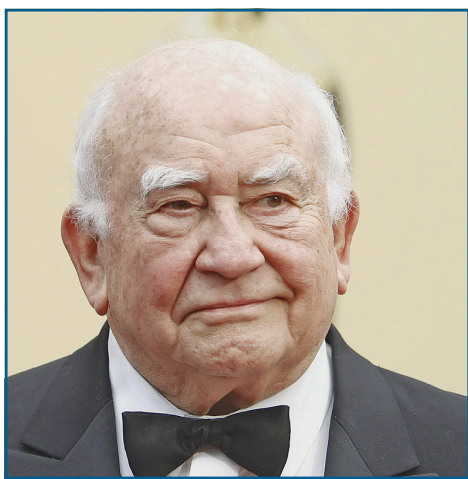
PREACHER (AMC)

For more brazen insanity, look no further than AMC's new drama Preacher, based upon the Vertigo Comics title. Starring Captain America's Dominic Cooper, Preacher is an intensely violent blast of shock and awe - beginning with some kind of invading force from outer space attempting to possess a Christian minister in Africa, who immediately and spontaneously explodes in front of his entire congregation.

Cooper plays Jesse Custer, who has returned to his hometown in Texas to oversee a flock of his own sinners, but Jesse has a dark, sordid past and a history of violence. There are bone-crunching fight scenes galore, femme fatales beating men to death in speeding cars, vampire attacks on airplanes. It's stunning and it's the sort of show that leaves you with questions that you absolutely must tune in again to see answered. This show should easily fill the void left by the hiatus of The Walking Dead. It's fantastic.

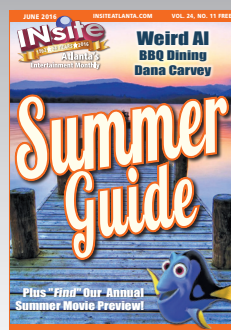
BLOODLINE (Netflix)

On a more downtrodden note, Netflix has also brought back its Florida family noir series Bloodline, where a group of siblings who committed a murder during the first season now must fight off drug lords and human traffickers while trying to stay out of prison. Starring Kyle Chandler and Sissy Spacek, it's still dark, filled with characters you don't really like, but viewers invested in the Rayburn family should remain transfixed as their situation only gets worse. It's a compelling show, filled with sad family dynamics and the idea that you can never completely recover from the pain of the past.



INsite is on Facebook!

Sign up for Facebook to connect with insiteatlanta.com



Become a Fan to stay informed and be the first to know about great events and online ticket contests.

facebook

Check Us Out on Facebook at: facebook.com/insiteatlanta

Whipped Cream Nitrous Oxide Chargers & Dispensers



(866) 944-7427
creamright.com