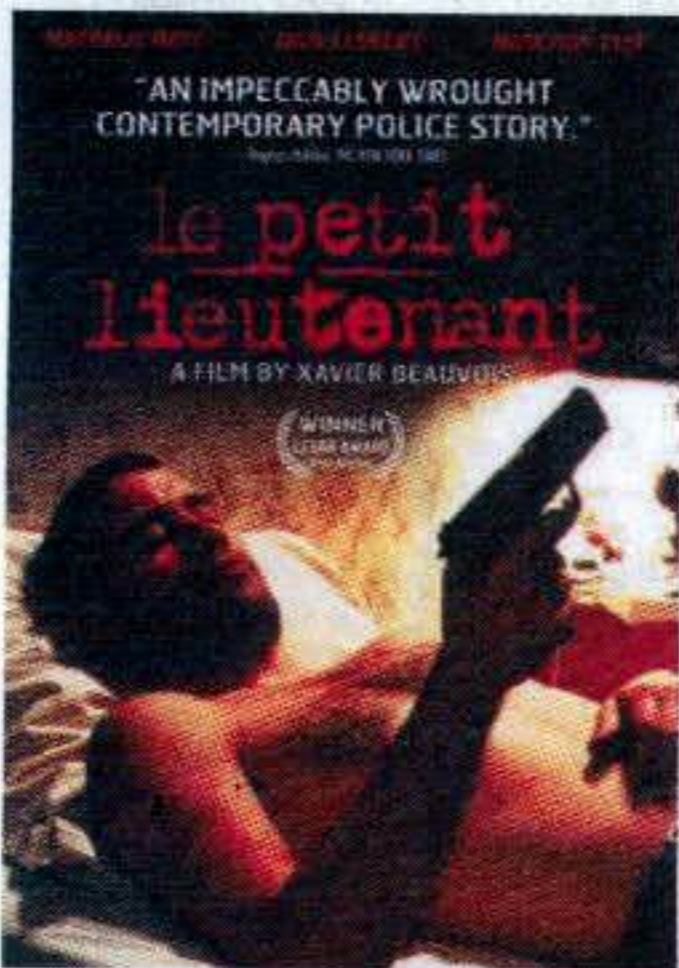


despair as Walter tries to figure out whether his one night of passion with Marie-Ange was a dream or not. Robbe-Grillet, who wrote and directed the film, beautifully encapsulates a surrealist sensibility ala Renee Margarite in his visual style. Unfortunately, Lorber has not spent the same amount of time trying to restore the picture quality. It seems like they just dumped the quickest, cheapest copy of the film onto DVD, didn't care about restoration and left it with the original French theatrical trailer to entice buyers. In the words of worker's banners around town: "Shame on you Koch Lorber" ... for not making this a better digital product. The movie is great but the distribution company is not. -Erik Lopez

Le Petit Lieutenant

**Xavier Beauvois**

Koch Lorber Films  
Street: 04.17

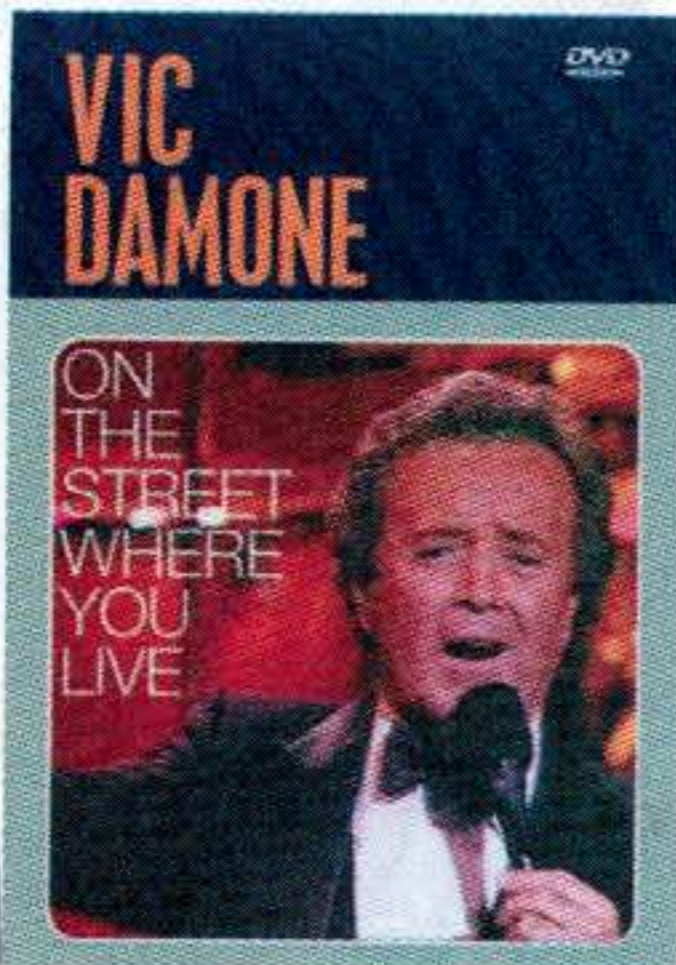


The police crime genre is one that is inundated with small variations on ultimately similar stories. A rookie cop is usually a prime main character, said rookie cop is a standout of his class, an out of the ordinary crime occurs and the rookie cop helps solve the case. *Le Petit Lieutenant* takes this usually bombastic formula, strips it of its hyper-masculine tendencies and leaves the viewer with a memorable, well-paced tragic story. The real star of this movie is not Antoine (Jalil Lespert) the police rookie, but his recently-returned-to-the-force sergeant Caroline Vaudieu (Nathalie Baye, who won a Cesar for her role). Vaudieu is a recovering alcoholic who lost a son years ago who would just happen to be about Antoine's age. This creates a very tender, but ultimately subdued surrogate mother relationship between Antoine and Vaudieu.

The crimes of the movie, murders by the riverside, take a back seat to the calculated and tremendous character development of the members of the police force. There is no good cop/bad cop dichotomy or methodical serial killer for the plot to hide behind. Instead, the characters are the riveting part of this film and they really shine. It ends on a very tender, tragic note, with the emotions of the characters palpable. This is a superb police drama that truly offers something new to the genre. -Peter Fryer

**Vic Damone: On the Street Where You Live**

MVD  
Street: 06.05



I don't know much about crooner Vic Damone and I don't much care, but I do know that the sound engineer for this performance and the guy who mastered the DVD are incompetent assholes. That said, the shitty sound quality of this disc is probably the only thing that will keep you watching it for more than five minutes. Because of some sort of microphone interference, the sound of the audience has been reduced to an undulating wall of noise, a weird, seasick, psychedelic cacophony that poor Vic has to compete with. This comes to a head during the call-and-response "New York, New York," where Mr. Damone trades off his smoothly crooned lines with what sounds like an army of demented zombie squirrels on acid. So, for anyone looking for something very strange to sample, I highly recommend that you pick this up... from my house, because if I paid for it I'd probably be pissed. -Jona Gerlach



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