

The Simpsons

Spending every Sunday with our own family can be painful enough. Spending it with somebody else's family would be intolerable. Unless, of course, that family happens to be The Simpsons. It has now been 350 weeks — not counting reruns, pre-emptions and holidays — since Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa and Maggie came into our lives. Yet they don't seem to have changed a bit. Homer is still a lovable buffoon with three hairs, Marge is still the mom we wish we all had, Bart is still an underachiever (and proud of it, man), Lisa is still a sax-loving brainiac, and Maggie still hasn't said more than one word to us. On tomorrow's landmark 350th episode — titled *Don't Fear the Roofer* — Ray Magini (guest voice Ray Romano) and Homer fix the Simpson house. Good luck with that, boys. And good luck with the next 350 shows.



Turbonegro: The ResErection

They go by names like Happy-Tom and Pål Pot Pamparius. They dress in dungarees. They deliberately project an image of aggressive homosexuality. They write songs about pizza, death, NAMBLA and rock against ass (whatever that is). Clearly demented, deviant Norwegian metal-punks Turbonegro don't take themselves seriously. Which makes their new DVD rockumentary *The ResErection* all the more startling. And all the more worthwhile. Far more revealing and moving than the usual sanitized PR footage, *ResErection* chronicles the band's 2002 comeback, which came four years after singer Hank Von Helvete's runaway heroin addiction

destroyed the band. As the group slowly progress from rehearsing in a tiny room to headlining on festival stages, Hank's palpable trepidation at returning to a lifestyle that nearly killed him — coupled with his fear of disappointing his bandmates again — makes for compelling viewing. Of course, so do those concert scenes of him sticking a lit firecracker up his butt-crack. Hey, we told you they don't take themselves seriously.

Because we can tell the difference

THE SHINOLA

Oldboy

We're used to the bizarre plotlines of Asian movies. But the story of *Oldboy* — South Korean director Chan-Wook Park's mindbending psychological thriller — takes creativity to a whole new level. Stop us if you've heard this one before: One drunken night, a family man named Oh Dae-Su is kidnapped off the street, placed in a windowless one-room apartment — and held captive without explanation for 15 years, with only a TV for company and an endless supply of dumplings to eat. Then, just as suddenly as he was taken, he is released. With the help of a young female sushi chef who becomes his lover, Oh, sets out to find out why he was imprisoned — and make the culprits pay. The answers, however, may not be ones he wants to hear. And he may not be quite done paying himself. Released overseas in 2003, *Oldboy* has finally made its way to North American theatres. Look for it onscreen — or at a better foreign video store. But don't say we didn't warn you.



Night's Child by Maureen Jennings

Toronto author Maureen Jennings delivers another Det. Murdoch mystery packed with her now-trademark blend of filth, fury and forensic wizardry. This time out, conflicted police officer William Murdoch — still virtuously lusting for a prudish widow and finding himself oddly attracted to the New Woman of the day — tackles the case of a sleazy Victorian-era child pornographer who victimizes a motherless schoolgirl. At the same time, there's trouble at the precinct house when poison pen letters accuse a fellow officer of unnamed crimes which may be connected to the pornography investigation. The fifth novel couldn't come fast enough for fans — after the success of the first two Murdoch mystery movies, shot in Winnipeg, another pair are set to shoot in Toronto later this year. More fodder, please!

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