

You know it's hard out there for a pimp

A documentary that needed to be made, just to fill all of us suburbanites in about what really happens on the street, **American Pimp**, is available from MGM Home Entertainment (UPC#02761685480, \$15). The 1999 program was shot by Albert and Allen Hughes, who gained the confidence of several pimps and got them to talk on camera about how they got into the business, what skills they needed to succeed, and what the ups and downs of the vocation are like. Even if you filter out the posing and the inevitable exaggerations, which the Hughes Brothers have done substantially to begin with, the 87-minute program remains a very entertaining look at eccentric personalities, a valuable insight upon the seamier edges of society, and a worthy instruction about the dynamics of poverty.

The picture is presented in letterboxed format only, with an aspect ratio of about 1.85:1 and an accommodation for enhanced 16:9 playback. The image is naturally grainy and subject to inconsistent lighting, but the transfer is fully workable. The 5.1-channel Dolby Digital sound serves the pop songs that have been added to audio track well. There is an alternate Spanish track in standard stereo, optional English and Spanish subtitles and a good 25-minute interview with the Hughes Brothers, conducted by film critic Elvis Mitchell.

If you are at all beguiled by the documentary, then you won't want to miss the 70 minutes of deleted scenes that are gathered on **American Pimp Raw Outtakes & The Hard Truth**, from Shout Factory (UPC#82666-3538298, \$20). They present a somewhat less flattering portrait of the subjects, as each talks about the power he has over his women and other seamy details. There are some good stories that didn't make the other release—particularly one about a john and a carrot—and a few nice moments, too, as one man recalls being bussed to a white school and learning how to manipulate the girls there into bringing him candy.

The picture is in letterboxed format only, with an aspect ratio of about 1.85:1 and no 16:9 enhancement. Since these are outtakes and such, the image quality is a little rougher and mistake-prone, although the transfer appears accurate. There is a nominal stereophonic musical score. Also included in the package, however, is a 64-minute CD soundtrack for the original film, with a number of choice oldies and dialog clips.

New Wave nostalgia

For those of you who might have forgotten, The Human League was an early Eighties New Wave band that had a smattering of Top Ten hits (*Don't You Want Me Baby*) during their brief foray into pop stardom. Embracing one of their own, however, Britain hasn't forgotten them, and so the band staged a 2004 revival concert in Brighton, which is presented on the MVD release **The Human League Live at the Dome** (UPC#02289144619, \$20). Apparently, the group hasn't forgotten how to play the same note over and over again, or sing in monotone harmony, and the concert achieves the giddy bouquet of nostalgia that is the only thing it has going for it anyway.

The picture is presented in letterboxed format only, with an aspect ratio of about 1.85:1 and an accommodation for enhanced 16:9 playback. The concert's strongly colored stage lights tend to blur the image at times, although otherwise its hues are fresh and the presentation is clear. The 5.1-channel Dolby Digital sound has a strong dimensionality, and there is no captioning. There is also a very entertaining 56-minute interview with the three band members, who wax nostalgically about their heyday and the ups and downs of their chosen profession. Additionally, there is a nice 19-minute documentary about their 2003-2004 American revival concert tour (including a good outdoor performance clip from Mardi Gras in New Orleans), a 2-minute montage of publicity photos, and a text biography of the group.

Reggae eye candy

A collection of live performances by secondary reggae bands is accompanied with footage of college kids celebrating their spring vacation in Mexico on **Reggae Nation The Real Spring Break**, a Resin Music Image Entertainment release (UPC#014381245226, \$10). The bands, Eek-a-Mouse, Mr. Vegas, Tippa Irie, and Badfish, among others, are good enough to support the 44-minute program effectively, as bikini-clad coeds at the height of their reproductive drives demonstrate the maximization of their fertility states for the camera and those around them. There are also shots of surfers, to let your sweat cool off between the money shots. A couple of the bands appear in concert, while others are just heard over the soundtrack. Except for a bizarre stylistic choice that has the program appearing like it was shot on film scraps and reel ends, the 2002 show is smartly designed and adeptly delivered. The picture is in letterboxed format, with an aspect ratio of about 1.6:1 and no 16:9 enhancement. The stereo sound is solidly delivered, and there is no captioning. Also featured are specific music videos from five different bands, running a total of 13 minutes. For those of you in whom the images of the program do not instill a desire to mate, an 18-minute CD of the band performances has also been included.

Girls will be girls

A wacky movie about a formidable lesbian gang leader who kidnaps a wealthy woman's gigolo to collect ransom, *She Mob*, is just one of the eccentric pleasures on the Chiller Theatre Something Weird Video release, **She Mob / Nymphs Anonymous** (UPC#014381123425, \$20). Her 'gang' can't keep their hands off the abductee, leading to dissension that eventually

spoils the scheme. The performances are great fun, the story supplies a sufficient momentum, and there are a decent number of erotic sequences. Plus, the gang leader wears a brassier that appears to have been constructed with two large funnels. The 1968 feature runs 81 minutes.

The companion film, also from 1968, *Nymphs Anonymous*, which runs 87 minutes, has an even loopier narrative, about a woman whose needs cause her to join an organization that arranges her satisfactions, and what happens when her husband starts assassinating her lovers. The organization has contingencies for that, as well. The plot is somewhat confusing, the nudity is limited, and there are direct attempts at humor (as the corpses pile up, so does the farce), but as part of a double bill, it is in the right company.

Both black-and-white programs are in full screen format with some stray scratches and erratic tonal levels (on both, the day-for-night is pretty murky), although for the most part, the images are presentable. The monophonic sound is tolerable, and there is no captioning. Also featured are two black-and-white peep show reels, one entitled *Tease for Two* running 14 minutes in which a pair of girls undress and box (with gloves), and one running 13 minutes entitled *Smoke Rings*, about two naked women who sit on a couch, share a cigarette and then fall asleep. There are also six trailers for other female friendship films and a 12-minute montage of exploitation ad art in rough alphabetical order, accompanied by exploitation drive-in audio advertisements.

DVD News

GRAND GRAND PRIX: Warner Home Video will be releasing John Frankenheimer's **Grand Prix** in a two-platter set, meticulously transferred and accompanied by a number of documentary features. Warner's **Film Noir Collection Volume Three** will be accompanied by an additional volume containing a documentary about the genre. Each of the films, **Lady in the Lake, On Dangerous Ground, His Kind of Woman, Border Incident** will also be released individually, and all have commentary tracks. Warner's gangster film releases will all have commentaries, too, including **City for Conquest, A Slight Case of Murder, Bullets of Ballots, San Quentin, G Men** and **Each Dawn I Die**.

FROST TALK: Wolfe Video's release of **An Early Frost** will have a commentary and featurette.

CHOOSE YOUR DESTINATION: New Line Home Entertainment will be releasing **Final Destination 3** with a deleted scene, a commentary track and a 'Choose-Their-Fate Interactive Feature.'

DVD and LD Ads

(All DVD and LD Ads are 50 cents a word. Deadline is 5 business days before the end of the month. Address all ads: DVD & LD Ads, The DVD-Laser Disc Newsletter, PO Box 420, East Rockaway NY 11518-0420.)

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