



Diggers: What brown can do for you.

Zoo: How the horse whisperer got his groove back.

(Ron Eldard); the stoner philosopher (Josh Hamilton); and the blue-collar a-hole (*The State's* Ken Marino). Various women, naturally, orbit these overgrown boys of summer as they stand around and talk. And talk. And talk. Director Katherine Dieckmann keeps everything moving smoothly, and the appeal of Rudd in wisecracking mode can't be underestimated. But if you've ever sat through an Ed Burns film, there's nothing here you haven't seen before.

That's something that certainly can't be said for **ZOO**, a documentary about a Seattle resident who in the summer of 2005 went to see a man about a horse. He ended up bleeding to death in an emergency room several hours later from a perforated colon, and filmmaker Robinson Devor (*Police Beat*) traces the link between the two events. Yes, unfortunately, it's exactly what you think—the victim was visiting a farm that catered to hot man-on-stallion action. A former crime reporter, Devor is skilled at getting people involved in the underground "zoophile" community to open up about their unusual lifestyle. What's most surprising, however, is how he's able to make a film about such a sensationalistic subject and have it be neither unbearably sleazy nor cringe-inducing. Thanks to the dreamlike cinematography and ambient soundtrack, the movie feels like a lyrical meditation on twisted desires (though it doesn't condone them). As good as it is, this is one movie you hope to God never gets a sequel.

**BLENDER APPROVED**

The best movies and DVDs of the past months:



**ZODIAC**

Seven director David Fincher returns to the world of serial killers. Man, is it creepy.



**NINE INCH NAILS LIVE: BESIDE YOU IN TIME**

Trent Reznor's still mad as hell in this concert DVD, taped in '06.



**LAST GOOD MOVIE YOU SAW?**

**THE GAME**

"*The Departed*. That shit was gritty and realistic—lots of cops are criminals. Scorsese is gangsta."

**MUSIC DVDS**

Nick Cave: Clap your hands say gloom.

**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO NICK**

In an intense live DVD, gothfather **NICK CAVE** challenges everything you learned in Sunday school

(By Ryan Dombal)

**NICK CAVE & THE BAD SEEDS**

THE ABATTOIR BLUES TOUR (MUTE)

★★★★



After 30 years of singing about society's seedy underbelly, Nick Cave hasn't lost his taste for exposing the dark side of faith and devotion. Take "Get Ready for Love," one of many exceptional performances from this two-DVD set's centerpiece 2004 show at London's Brixton Academy: As a quartet of gospel singers who wouldn't seem out of place backing Mariah Carey wail behind him, Cave offsets the pious chorus ("Praise Him!") with lyrics that expose God's affections as mere hucksterism. Whether Cave is convulsing like a man possessed or quietly hovering over a piano, his intensity—and his impeccably sharp attire—remain frightfully constant. The gig has the manic energy of an evangelical mass—with the devil lurking somewhere behind the curtain.

**THE BEST OF THE REST**

**THE DECEMBERISTS A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK**

(KILL ROCK STARS)

★★

Given their overtly literary indie rock, it's not surprising that the Decemberists would model their DVD on a book. *A Practical Handbook* tells the story of the Portland, Oregon, band's breakthrough album, 2005's whimsical *Picaresque*, with talking-head monotony, unexceptional live footage and amateurish music videos. It makes for one really dull read.

**TIM BUCKLEY MY FLEETING HOUSE**

(MVD VISUAL)

★★★★

Shaman, sexpot, soothsayer, hippie blowhard—the late Tim Buckley played all of those roles during his brief career from 1966 to 1975. *My Fleeting House* chronicles his evolution from traditional folkie to avant-jazzbo to groovy rocker through a series of arresting TV performances. The highlight is his immaculate rendition of "Song to the Siren" from, of all places, an episode of *The Monkees*.

**SCREAMING MASTERPIECE**

(MILAN)

★★★★

With a population less than half of North Dakota's, Iceland is an unlikely hotbed of innovative music. *Screaming Masterpiece* features riveting live footage of Björk, Sigur Rós and lesser-knowns like rappers Quarashi and composer Jóhann Jóhannsson. Insightful interviews with the artists help explain the country's propensity for left-of-center pop brilliance—and no, it doesn't involve magic elves.