

DVD REVIEWS



The Corporation DVD
(Zeitgeist Films)

Based on Joel Bakan's book *The Corporation: The Pathological Pursuit of Profit*, *The Corporation* was almost lost amongst the barrage of popular documentaries in 2004, which means this DVD is your chance to catch what might be the best doc of the last year. Written by Bakan, produced in part by Mark

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combining art and commerce can drive people mad. (www.palmpictures.com/DIG/) 9 Blips out of 10



My Own Private Idaho DVD (Criterion)

Gus Van Sant's 1991 film has been long overdue on DVD. This two-disc set aims to rectify the situation by providing substantive extras, including a beautiful 64-page book filled with rare photos and new and old essays. This haunting film focuses on two Portland hustlers: Mike Waters, haunted by his absent mother and dreamlike childhood memories, who is hopelessly looking for a connection. Mike, played by the late and achingly beautiful River

photography studio burns down. As far as extras go, this set is a bit of a letdown. The only significant extra (in addition to the animated show) is one interview with George Gaines, who played Henry (you may also recognize him as Commandant Lassard from the *Police Academy* movies). It's great to hear from him, but an audio commentary from the creators or any input from Soleil Moon Frye, who played Punky herself, would be powerful indeed. (www.shoutfactory.com) 5 Blips out of 10

By Nick Hyman



Public Enemy: It Takes a Nation: The First London Invasion 1987 DVD
(Music Video Distributors)

Before Public Enemy was a national joke due to Flavor Flav's recent appearances on VH1 reality shows, they were the best hip-hop act in the world. *It Takes a Nation* shows the early stages of P.E. right before they recorded their landmark second album *It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back* while on tour opening for LL Cool J in London to support their first album, *Yo! Bum Rush the Show*. Classics like "Bring The Noise" and "Rebel Without a Pause" are atmospherically documented here with an '80s-era video camera along with backstage footage of Flavor, Professor Griff, and Terminator X. Frontman Chuck D provides an enlightening and energetic commentary that educates the viewer on the seminal group's beginnings, and an extra CD is included that has the live show and remixes. (www.publicenemy.com, www.musicvideodistributors.com)

7 Blips out of 10

By Nick Hyman



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By Nick Hyman



Heat: Special Edition DVD
(Warner Bros.)

Michael Mann's 1995 masterpiece finally gets some special edition love ten years after its release. The years have been kind to *Heat*: over the last decade, it has garnered even more critical acclaim and achieved an almost *Scarface*-like cult film status. The film megastars Robert DeNiro as professional thief Neil McCauley, who is planning his last score, and Al Pacino as Vincent Hanna, the cop hot on his trail. What follows is a three-hour epic character study of how our jobs can take over our lives. Mann's sleek style and choice musical cues (*Moby*, *Einstürzende Neubauten*) only enhance the movie's mood. The new two-disc special edition has three excellent making-ofs that shed light on the real-life criminals and police who inspired the story and show behind-the-scenes footage of one of the best shootouts ever captured on film. At three hours, deleted scenes seemed improbable but 11 truly surprising scenes are included and give some of the supporting actors (notably Tom Sizemore) more to do. Rounding out the set is a thought-provoking commentary from Mann himself in which he discusses the film's origins and the motivations behind the characters' actions. Highly recommended. (www.warnervideo.com) 9 Blips out of 10

By Nick Hyman



Punky Brewster: Season 2 DVD
(Shout! Factory)

Punky power! That was the battle cry heard round the US during the mid '80s when a precocious abandoned seven-year-old named Punky Brewster and her dog Brandon met Henry Warmintot and turned his life upside down. The hit show was on for four seasons and even spawned an animated show (*It's Punky Brewster*), three hours of which are featured here as extras.

The show managed to be funny, cheesy and heartfelt all at the same time, not to mention trendsetting. Punky's ragtag style influenced thousands of indie-rock girls and boys from the early '90s, whether they'd like to admit it or not. The highlight from the second season has to be the five-part "Changes," with its emotionally charged story of Punky being taken away from Henry when his

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