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## DVD CORNER: UPCOMING RELEASES &amp; REVIEWS

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## East of Sunset

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### Synopsis:

In this angst-ridden tale set in the Silverlake section of Los Angeles, Carley (Emily Stiles) lives a life of pills, dive bars and uncommitted sexual encounters. When she meets up with Jim (Jimmy Wayne Farley), an artist with recreational heroin issues, she is forced to face her avoidance of intimacy and her own drug use. Recent recordings by various artists of songs written by Tom Waits in the 1970s and early 1980s comprise the entire musical score of the film.

"East of Sunset" originally caught my interest because of the all Tom Waits-soundtrack, so it shouldn't have come as a big surprise that the film is both artsy and very depressing. However, I wasn't quite prepared for just how heavy a flick this was - there's not really a start, middle, and end, but instead we're given a glimpse into the life of the main character and how she finds love (as well as many more heart-wrenching things) with her new man. It's definitely an artsy flick - and have I mentioned that it's a downer? - but it's an interesting watch that is an ambitious and ultimately intriguing film.



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It's very much an independent, with acting and dialogue to go along with it, and special mention has to be given to the soundtrack of Tom Waits tunes (performed by many artists you've never heard of before). In fact, the soundtrack should get credit as a co-star, since it plays such a pivotal part in the film and takes the place of dialogue in many scenes to convey the emotions of a scene.

Interesting, artsy and heavy - that about sums it up.

### Video: How's it look?

A non-anamorphic widescreen transfer is included here and seems to be a bit of a mixed bag: for the most part, the quality is solid throughout, but a few scenes seem to have a ton of grain in them - original film? Transfer? Probably the former, but it was a noticeable shift in quality...

### Audio: How's it sound?

Dolby 5.1 is the mix du jour here and it sounds pretty darned good. Dialogue is always clear and audible (and sometimes out of sync) and the Tom Waits tunes are well mixed into the overall soundtrack.

### Extras: What all's on the DVD?

- director's audio commentary
- bonus cd with film soundtrack
- "Old Shoes" music video

### Closing Thoughts

Down-trodden but intriguing film + some nice extras = not for those in search of laughs

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