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DVD Screener with Gerry Shamray

DVD SCREENER

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Advertisement

John Lennon once described the Hudson Brothers as "the kings of Saturday morning." At least for one season, their "Razzle Dazzle Show" was the wackiest half-hour in children's television. Had cable's Nickelodeon been around then, perhaps brothers Bill, Mark and Brett would have achieved true TV fame.



GERRY SHAMRAY

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They certainly put a lot of creative zip into their high-energy comic routines. Their Beatles-esque sound also didn't hurt their appeal. (In fact, Mark Hudson later produced a couple of albums for Ringo Starr.)

I must admit surprise that their show even made it to DVD, but I had a grand time watching it again more than 30 years later. Yikes, has it really been that long?

Probably the funniest recurring bit on the show was provided by Rod Hull and his Emu, a bird puppet that generally abused his handler. And yes, those weekly players you'll see include comedian Murray Langston, who later found fame as the Unknown Comic on "The Gong

A little more trivia about the Hudsons: Bill once was married to actress Goldie Hawn and is the father of Kate Hudson. Later, he married (and subsequently divorced) Cindy Williams of "Laverne & Shirley."The three-disc set also includes clips from "The Hudson Brothers Show," their primetime variety series that ran as a CBS summer replacement in 1974

If you're a fan of writer/director John Hughes, his "High School Flashback Collection" is a must-get. His first three films, "Sixteen Candles," "The Breakfast Club" and "Weird Science," are housed in a cool, red tin, designed to look like a school locker.

"The Breakfast Club" includes a feature commentary with Judd Nelson and Anthony Michael Hall, plus "Sincerely Yours," a 12-chapter documentary on making the film.

"Sixteen Candles" includes "Celebrating Sixteen Candles,' " a similar multi-part documentary. "Weird Science" features "It's Alive! Resurrecting Weird Science.' " It also includes the TV pilot based on the film

Fans of R.L. Stine will be pleased to know three more "Goosebumps" titles have been released on DVD: "Monster Blood," "One Day at Horrorland" and "A Night in Terror Tower." Each includes about 88 minutes of monstrous fun.



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