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New reviews of other videos not in the print version of Video Librarian.

Rating system: ★ = poor, ★★ = fair, ★★★ = good, ★★★★ = excellent

K = Preschool-Kindergarten

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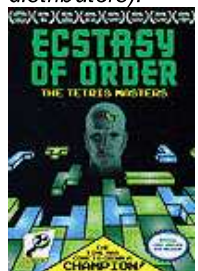
Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. ★★★½(2012) 3 discs. 600 min. DVD: \$39.99 (\$69.95 w/PPR from www.pbs.org). PBS Video. Closed captioned. ISBN: 978-1-60883-657-4.

Many immigrants who came to America changed their names and identities, complicating genealogical research for later generations (in the case of black Americans, trying to establish family history was made even more difficult by aspects of slavery, which not only separated families but also obliterated birth records). In this PBS series, Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. tries to find the roots of some famous Americans, trying to discover whether, in the words of subject Barbara Walters, she was "a princess or a serf." Individuals featured here include former

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, husband and wife actors Kevin Bacon and Kyra Sedgwick, and domestic skills guru Martha Stewart. With the help of genealogists, historians, and librarians, Gates compiles a family history "book of life" for each guest, with the highlight being the "big reveal" of the subject's hidden or obscured family lines. Along the way some big, often unpleasant truths are explored, particularly the role of race and slavery in America. Other topics include the struggle to retain one's religious beliefs and customs while adapting to the New World, dealing with the immigrant's feelings of loss, and the recent debate about mixed bloodlines and what it means to be African American. Following the paper trail and using new DNA technology, this series combining entertainment value with insightful commentary on the melting pot of America may well inspire individuals to explore their own family trees. Highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (S. Rees)

Ecstasy of Order: The Tetris Masters ★★★½

(2011) 93 min. DVD: \$24.95. Music Video Distributors (avail. from most distributors).



If you're an old-school gamer, then *Ecstasy of Order* could be your 8-bit Nintendo cup of tea; if not, this 93-minute documentary may feel like watching paint dry. Filmmaker Adam Cornelius focuses on one year in the Classic Tetris World Championship, following an assortment of Tetris masters as they prepare for top-tier competition. Although we get insights into their lives, it's not enough to lift the story here above its niche-audience constraints. For the faithful, however, the film features a lot of insider talk and plenty of screen time devoted to watching as contestants play this popular puzzle game, which involves rotating and stacking various configurations of block pieces that fall with increasing rapidity from the top of the screen. The most interesting subject here is a past champion named Thor Aackerlund, a gifted Tetris master who comes across like chess legend Bobby Fischer,

minus the paranoid delusions. DVD extras include deleted scenes, extended game footage, and game-related featurettes. A strong optional purchase. Aud: C, P. (T. Keogh)

Mari Winsor Beginner's Pilates ★★★

(2012) 60 min. DVD: \$14.98. Gaiam (avail. from most distributors).

Mari Winsor instructs lifestyle fitness coach Lindsey LeGrande in the finer points of Pilates basics in this no frills exercise program aimed at promoting