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DVD REVIEWS

JUN 2009

My Breakfast With Blassie / I'm From Hollywood

By Will Sloan

As the old expression goes, "comedy is dangerous." Andy Kaufman's comedy was so dangerous that it not only tested boundaries but also ruined his career in the process. This collection of two low-budget Kaufman films, *My Breakfast with Blassie* and *I'm From Hollywood*, showcases Kaufman at his most challenging, deconstructing and demolishing the lovable comic persona he built on *Taxi* and *Saturday Night Live* in the name of performance art. *My Breakfast with Blassie*, a Dadaist goof on *My Dinner With Andre*, sees self-proclaimed "world famous TV star" Kaufman meeting surly wrestling personality Fred Blassie at a skeezy L.A. diner for breakfast. The two engage in mindless chatter until catching the attention of other patrons, who they quickly alienate with their monstrous egos. As an attack on *My Dinner With Andre*, it's an insubstantial spit ball of cruddy photography and anti-intellectualism, but as a record of Kaufman's astonishing eagerness to look like an ass in the name of comedy, and as a venue for his unique take on his celebrity, it's mildly diverting. More interesting is *I'm From Hollywood*, a one-hour documentary about Kaufman's tongue-in-cheek career wrestling women, which soon evolved into a long-running feud with Memphis wrestler Jerry Lawler. We see Kaufman appearing on TV to teach Southerners basic grooming habits ("This is toilet paper..."), appearing foolish in various matches and generally relishing his role as an obnoxious narcissist. Although Lawler eventually admitted the feud was a joke, you might not be able to tell from this film, which shows Kaufman so committed to the gag it's almost frightening. "I believe that if you're going to play an evil wrestler, you should go all-out," says Kaufman early in the documentary, perhaps the most revealing statement he ever gave regarding his style of comedy. That the wrestling scam eventually destroyed his career was perhaps the greatest joke of all. Extras include deleted scenes and premiere footage from *Blassie*, as well as a Q&A session with Jerry Lawler and commentary by Kaufman's girlfriend Lynne Margulies on *I'm From Hollywood*. Even they can't seem to make heads or tails of Kaufman. This two-disc set will be of interest mostly to die-hard Kaufman fans but then again, is there any other kind? (VSC)

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JCVD - Dir. by Mabrouk El Mechri

JCVD may not be the film that causes you to completely re-evaluate the career of '80s Belgian action hero Jean-Claude Van Damme, but you've got to admire his gumption. The Muscles From Brussels plays himself in this cleverly self-aware action flick. At 47, his body is br spirit is br ...Read More



Frost/Nixon - Dir. by Ron Howard

Frost/Nixon could easily be re-titled *Frost vs. Nixon* for this cinematic political boxing match between comedic TV presenter David Frost (Michael Sheen) and impeached 37th President of the United States Richard Nixon (Frank L. The film, based on the play by Peter Morgan ...Read More




2010: The Year We Make Contact [Blu-Dir. by Peter Hyams

Alter Eco

Andy Richter Controls the Universe: Complete Series

- Beautiful Ohio** - Dir. by Chad Lowe
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- Blue Gold** - Dir. by Sam Bozzo
- Bride Wars** - Dir. by Gary Winick
- Caprica** - Dir. by Jeffrey Reiner
- Capturing Reality: The Art of Document** by Pepita Ferarri
- Chandni Chowk To China** - Dir. by Nikhil
- Coronation Street Volume 1: 1960-61**
- Derriere Moi** - Dir. by Rafael Ouellet
- Died Young, Stayed Pretty** - Dir. by Eilee Yaghoobian
- The Agnes Merlet** - Dorothy Mills
- Eddie Murphy: Delirious** - Dir. by Bruce C
- El Dorado** - Dir. by Howard Hawks
- Fear(s) of the Dark**
- Friday Night Lights: Season Three**
- Galaxy Quest** - Dir. by Dean Parisot
- Greensburg**
- Hank and Mike** - Dir. by Matthew Klinc
- In The Moment** - Dir. by Sandra Chwialko
- Into The Blue 2: The Reef** - Dir. by Stepl

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It's Not Me I Swear! - Dir. by Philippe Fal
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Last Chance Harvey - Dir. by Joel Hopkin
Lik Your Idols - Dir. by Angelique Bosio
Martyrs - Dir. by Pascal Laugier
Max Fleischer's Superman: 1941-1942
My Bloody Valentine 3D - Dir. by Patrick
 **Notorious** - Dir. by George Tillman
Passengers - Dir. by Rodrigo Garcia
Paul Blart: Mall Cop - Dir. by Steve Carr
Peyton Place: Part One
Plague Town - Dir. by David Gregory
Pulling: The Complete First Season
Skins: Volume 2
Splinter - Dir. by Michael D. Olmos
Standing with Stones - Dir. by Michael B
Star Trek: Motion Picture Trilogy
Star Wars The Clone Wars: A Galaxy Di
Taken - Dir. by Pierre Morel
TCM Greatest Classic Movies: Western
Adventures
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button -
 David Fincher
The Dana Carvey Show
The Education of Charlie Banks - Dir. by
 Durst
The Grudge 3 - Dir. by Toby Wilkins
 **The Last Picture Show / Nickelodeon**
 Peter Bogdanovich
Geoffrey Haley - The Last Word
The Nature of Things Volume 1: Visions
Future
The Pope's Toilet - Dir. by Enrique Fernar
 Cesar Charlione
The Reader - Dir. by Stephen Daldry
The She-Beast - Dir. by Michael Reeves
The Uninvited - Dir. by Charles and Thom
The Wrestler - Dir. by Darren Aronofsky
Underworld Trilogy - Dir. by Len Wisema
 Patrick Tatopoulos
Watchmen: Tales of the Black Freighter
the Hood
 **Wendy and Lucy** - Dir. by Kelly Reicha
While She Was Out - Dir. by Susan Montf
Who Is KK Downey? - Dir. by Darren Cur
 Kiely
Yes Man - Dir. by Peyton Reed



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TIMELINE

Green Day - Longview From Gilman Stree

They were darlings of the underground, then spokesmen for a generation of apathetic MTV youth. And just when it seemed like everyone had written Green Day off, they returned with tidy new outfits, a liberal amount of eyeliner, and the best album of their career: breakout, diamond-certified *Dookie*.... [Read More](#)

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Zao's lengthy, storied career has been both blessed and cursed with a comical amount of line-up changes, shifts in sound and an overall lack of regard for whatever the hardcore/metal scene considers marketable at any given time. 2007's *Fear is What Keeps Us Here* saw them shed many of ... [Full Review](#)

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