

www.outcast-films.com. 2014. DVD UPC 079734487060. \$295. Public performance; closed-captioned; home version \$24.99. **AGRI** Finding innovative answers to today's sustainability challenges is crucial to our continued survival, and initiatives such as rooftop urban agriculture are a prime example of a solution with much potential. In *Brooklyn Farmer*, filmmaker Tyburski examines the promise of this emerging movement through the efforts of Brooklyn Grange, an urban farming collective that produces organic crops atop buildings in the heart of New York City. The documentary probes the unique challenges—and opportunities—of farming in such an atypical environment, including those associated with logistics, finances, and distribution, setting a model for others to follow. However, while the film effectively chronicles the events of one growing season, it comes up a little short on providing backstory on how the operation came together. Bonus features supplement this aspect of the story somewhat, though the information might have been better incorporated into the main narrative. **VERDICT** An informative though sometimes lacking look at a progressively minded initiative that could reshape the nature of contemporary agriculture and the source of our food supply.—**Brent Marchant, Chicago**

A Year in Champagne. color. 82+ min. In English & French w/English subtitles. David Kennard, Inca Films, dist. by First Run Features, 800-229-8575; www.firstrunfeatures.com. 2015. DVD UPC 720229916554. \$24.95. **BEVERAGES** The year 2012 was a difficult period in the Champagne region of France, plagued as it was by rain and cold. The seasons (spring, summer, harvest, winter) and the anxieties over the vines frame this in-depth look into a special wine. The filmmakers, who crafted the gorgeous *A Year in Burgundy*, use a similar approach to the earlier movie, focusing here on a handful of producers big and small and effectively humanizing champagne. For example, viewers share in the 40th birthday balloon ride and party for one winemaker and the harmonious parent-child relationship of a trio of others. The production touches on such key historical points as how England shaped the champagne market and how wars have scarred the region. Amid the handsome scenery viewers see a fraction of the 600 miles of cellars housing a billion bottles and watch such practices as the rigorously legislated types of pruning and the process of disgorging bottles. **VERDICT** Much like nonvintage champagnes, the film balances various elements to produce an enjoyable and bubbly treat.—**Peter Hepburn, Coll. of the Canyons Lib., Santa Clarita, CA**

Railroading Paradise. color. 58 min. Anthony Aalto & Mike Hinchey, Green Island Films, dist. by Collective Eye, www.collectiveeye.org. 2015. DVD \$39.99; public performance \$125; acad. libs. \$250. Closed-captioned. **ENVIRONMENT** The jumping-off point for this film is a pending decision by the Oahu Sierra Club of whether to endorse a \$5 billion rail transit project linking major suburbs to Honolulu's urban center. The club's debate opens up broader issues of suburban sprawl threatening farmland and highway congestion causing ever longer commutes. Automobiles are a central issue as one side says they waste energy, pollute, and consume limited land, while the other side contends they provide families with mobility. Those for and against the project appear on camera along with speakers who question the island's ability to sustain growth versus those who advocate for building more affordable housing. **VERDICT** The need for densely populated urban settings to conserve resources is a concern for many cities. The intelligent, evenhanded presentation of arguments recommends this documentary to viewers with an interest in Hawaii and for anyone worried about out-of-control development.—**Lawrence Maxted, Gannon Univ. Lib., Erie, PA**

All of Me: A Story of Love, Loss and Last Resorts. color. 53 min. Alexandra Lescaze, dist. by Video Project, 800-4-PLANET; www.video-project.com. 2014. DVD \$89; acad. libs. \$250. Public performance; closed-captioned. **HEALTH**

Three morbidly obese women, having failed at diets all their lives, decide to undergo gastric banding (Lap-band) surgery. This laparoscopic procedure includes the insertion of a band around the upper part of the stomach, greatly reducing its capacity to hold food. If one eats too much, or the wrong types of food, it comes right back up. The surgery, however, is only the first step. Patients must change their eating habits and exercise regularly to get their weight down to a healthy level. Each woman here worries about what effect this drastic change will have on her own sense of self, her marriage, and her relationships with her friends, especially those from a group who came together through their mutual obesity. What will they have in common if that connection is broken? Watching these shifts play out shines an intense light on the psychology of obesity: the origins of these women's situation, their family dynamics, and their willingness to reform their behavior or to see their friends do so. **VERDICT** This well-done film is recommended for related health-care organizations and for anyone considering such surgery.—**Susan B. Hagloch, formerly with Tuscarawas Cty. P.L., New Philadelphia, OH**

TRAILERS

What's coming on DVD/Blu-ray

Adult Beginners. color. 90+ min. Ross Katz, dist. by RADIUS c/o Anchor Bay. Aug. 2015. DVD UPC 013132630588. \$22.98; Blu-ray UPC 013132630595. \$26.99. Rated: R. **COMEDY**
"Growing up" in the suburbs.

Animals. color. 86+ min. Collin Schiffli, dist. by Oscilloscope Labs. Aug. 2015. DVD UPC 857490005103. \$29.99. **DRAMA**
Drug addiction takes its toll.

Day for Night. 2 discs. color. 115+ min. In French w/English subtitles. François Truffaut, dist. by Criterion Collection. Aug. 2015. DVD ISBN 9781681430355. \$29.95; 1-disc Blu-ray ISBN 9781681430347. \$39.95. **DRAMEDY**
The master's ode to moviemaking.



The French Lieutenant's Woman. 2 discs. color. 123+ min. Karel Reisz, dist. by Criterion Collection. Aug. 2015. DVD ISBN 9781681430339. \$29.95; 1-disc Blu-ray ISBN

9781681430320. \$39.95. **DRAMA**
The Fowles's novel reimagined, with Irons and Streep.

La Grande bouffe. 2 discs. color. 130+ min. Marco Ferreri, dist. by Arrow Video c/o MVDvisual. Aug. 2015. DVD/Blu-ray UPC 760137764397. \$39.95. **DRAMEDY**
Four international stars go for laughs.

Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell. 3 discs. color. 406+ min. dist. by BBC Worldwide. Aug. 2015. DVD UPC 883929407989. \$34.98; 2-disc Blu-ray UPC 883929408009. \$39.98. **FANTASY**
Magic in 19th-century England.

May Allah Bless France. b/w. 96+ min. In French w/English subtitles. Abd Al Malik, dist. by Strand Releasing. Aug. 2015. DVD UPC 712267350728. \$24.99. **DRAMA**
A true story of salvation through rap.

Night and the City. 2 discs. b/w. 95+ min. Jules Dassin, dist. by Criterion Collection. Aug. 2015. DVD ISBN 9781681430282. \$29.95; 1-disc Blu-ray ISBN 9781681430274. \$39.95. **FILM NOIR**
Richard Widmark wrestles his way to fame and fortune.—**Bette-Lee Fox**