

pers, critics, collaborators, and Welles's daughters. *Magician* challenges the tired cliché that Welles was a "failed" filmmaker, instead presenting a restless artist who never stopped exploring and engaging with cinema even when the industry turned its back on him. The film features a generous sampling of clips with Welles talking about his work and career that lend insight into his personality as both a person and an artist. *Magician* also incorporates audio clips of Welles's radio work, newsreel footage and stills from stage productions, and rarely-seen clips from unfinished films. A compelling tribute to one of the greatest artists ever to make movies, this is highly recommended. (S. Axmaker)

Marfa Girl ★

Breaking Glass, 106 min., not rated, DVD: \$21.99

Infuriatingly undisciplined and often just plain creepy in its voyeuristic fetishism over teen sex, *Marfa Girl* is the latest disaster from Larry Clark, the controversial filmmaker whose 1995 *Kids* featured multiple scenes centering on adolescent sex. *Kids* had something of a unifying point: namely, the meat-market mentality of its



male characters, who dehumanized girls while also endangering them (and themselves) during a time of rampant HIV. *Marfa Girl*, unfortunately, falls many degrees below the low standard set by *Kids*. Taking place in the titular tiny Texas town on the U.S.-Mexico border, the film follows the bed-hopping adventures of several young people—including the film's 16-year-old central character (Adam Mediano)—as they play music, ride skateboards, and talk about art, dogs, and therapy—all without any meaningful purpose. Clark's piecemeal approach to narrative has one redeeming element—the film's darkest and mostly whole-cloth villain, a psychopathic border guard (Jeremy St. James) with a porn habit and an urge to rape. But the filmmaker's continuing penchant for filming naked teen characters in bed from multiple angles is disturbing. Not recommended. (T. Keogh)

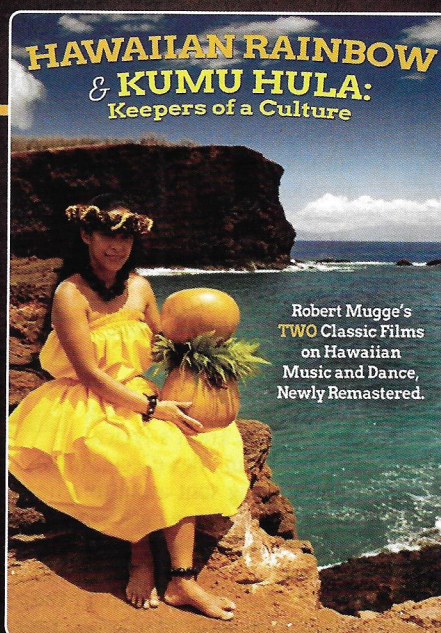
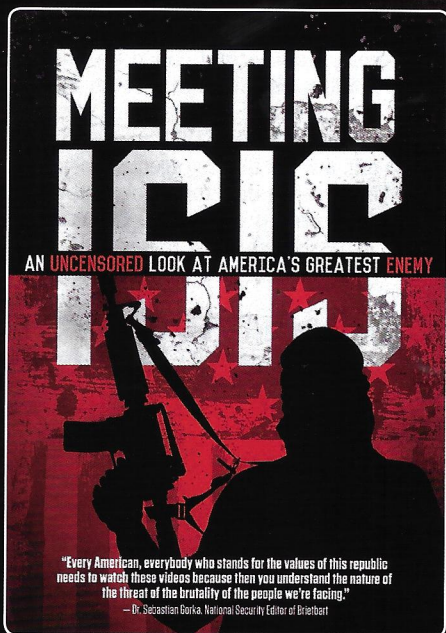
A Master Builder ★★★

Criterion, 127 min., not rated, DVD: \$29.95, Blu-ray: \$39.95

Based on the titular play by Henrik Ibsen and the stage production directed by André Gregory from a translation by Wallace Shawn,



A Master Builder marks the third screen collaboration between playwright/actor Shawn and stage director/actor Gregory, who teamed up in *My Dinner with Andre* over 30 years ago and reunited for *Vanya on 42nd Street*, both of which were directed by Louis Malle, who died in 1995. Jonathan Demme steps in to helm this more conventional film that updates the setting but retains the 19th-century attitude and chamber drama atmosphere. Shawn plays architect Halvard Solness—a classic Ibsen monster. Egotistical and vain, Solness justifies the suffering that he has inflicted on family, friends, and employees as a part of the cost of success and he plays power games by keeping everyone in their place until the unannounced arrival of an impossibly young and adoring girl (Lisa Joyce), who is like an angel nudging him to do right by those he has tormented and trapped. Demme films the action in a surreally stripped-down setting that feels like a vacant house hurriedly furnished with stage props. While this approach helps keep the focus on the actors, it also fails to give the film a life of its own beyond being a stage translation recorded for posterity. Even so, this is well worth adding (it's also available in the boxed set *André Gregory & Wallace Shawn: 3 Films*, which also includes the previously mentioned collaborations). Recommended. (S. Axmaker)



MEETING ISIS

Go Inside the Most Dangerous Terrorist Group in the World.

DVD

HAWAIIAN RAINBOW AND KUMU HULA: KEEPERS OF A CULTURE

Robert Mugge's feature-length films on Hawaiian music and dance, both traditional and modern, released together at last.

DVD

PRE-ORDER NOW AT MVDvisual.com & MAJOR RETAILERS