

these tales some of its best. Highly recommended to viewers of British mysteries.—**Lawrence Maxted, Gannon Univ. Lib., Erie, PA**

**Murder in Suburbia: Complete Collection.** 4 discs. color. 558+ min. **Edward Bennett & others, ITV Studios, dist. by Acorn Media, 888-870-8047; www.acornonline.com. 2014. ISBN 9781621720218. \$59.99.**

**SDH subtitles. F**

Detective Inspector Kate (Ash) Ashurst (Caroline Catz) and Det. Emma (Scribbs) Scribbins (Lisa Faulkner) solve crimes in fictional Middleford, an upscale English suburb. Their cases span a wide swath involving unscrupulous real estate agents, deadly romance in a senior residential community, wife swapping (not a crime until there's a murder), and questionable practices at a private school, among others. Ash and Scribbs, young, single, and attractive, share not only their working lives but their personal lives as well, which include trying to find "Mr. Right"; both are (understandably) attracted to their good-looking boss (Jeremy Sheffield). The two detectives approach their cases from unique perspectives based on their different social backgrounds (one posh, one working class), an advantage

that always leads to a successful resolution. **VERDICT** This sometimes tongue-in-cheek mystery series provides entertainment in part because of the warm relationship between the two women and should be popular in public libraries where British drama is in demand.—**Joan Greenberg, Warminster, PA**

### ARTS & HUMANITIES

**Edith Wharton: The Sense of Harmony.**

color & b/w. Elizabeth Lennard, dist. by IndiePix Films, www.indiepixfilms.com. 2014. DVD UPC 845637002399. \$14.95; digital download/streaming \$9.95/\$3.99. UR

Born in New York City to old money, Edith Wharton (1862–1937) spent six of her earliest years traveling Europe—she ultimately crossed the Atlantic 66 times—but had an insider's view of New York high society. Her first book, *The Decoration of Houses* (1897), was about European architecture, a lifelong influence, and she built her own home, the Mount, on those principles before moving permanently to France. Her philanthropic efforts on behalf of the Red Cross during World War I allowed her to tour the front and publish her observations. A variety of critics here weigh in on her work and inspirations,

and the film footage from the early 20th century is a treat. Structurally though, the documentary seems divided into biographical and critical halves, so halfway through we find ourselves back in her youth, which is a bit disconcerting. The information offered can be as dense as Wharton's prose.

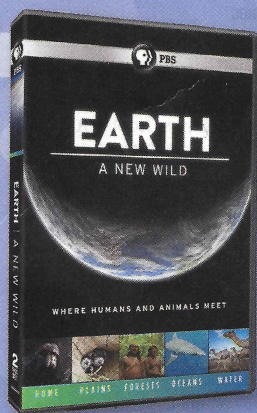
**VERDICT** Not many documentaries on the author exist, so this is likely a good bet for most libraries.—**John Hiett, formerly with Iowa City P.L.**

★ **Positive Force: More Than a Witness; 30 Years of Punk Politics in Action.** color & b/w. 69+ min. Robin Bell, Bell Visuals, dist. by PM Press, www.pmpress.org; morethanawitness.com. 2014. DVD ISBN 9781604862423. \$19.95. MUSIC

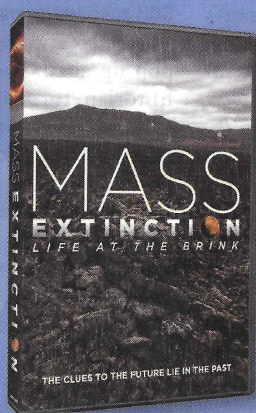
This Kickstarter-funded documentary by visual arts professor Bell (Corcoran School of the Arts & Design) traces the history of the Positive Force (PF) radical activist collective's Washington, DC, chapter, shedding light on how the grassroots organization grew to prominence within the 1980s DC punk scene, its aims, its leaders, and why it continues to thrive after three decades. Bell's fast-paced but thorough and well-rounded account combines snippets of grainy live footage of Fugazi and many



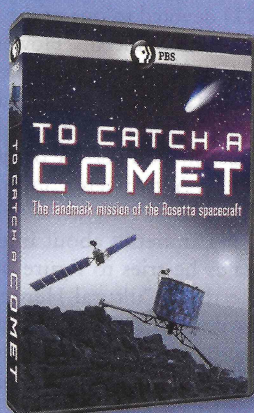
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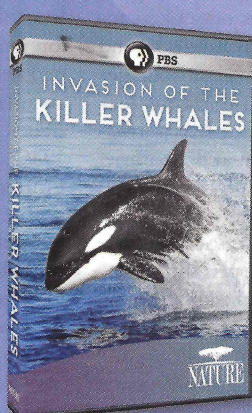
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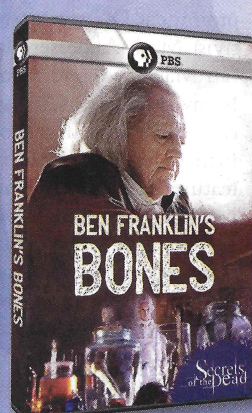
Mass Extinction: Life at the Brink



To Catch a Comet



NATURE: Invasion of the Killer Whales



Secrets of the Dead: Ben Franklin's Bones

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## FASTSCANS

Top Foreign & Indie Picks

By Jeff T. Dick, Davenport, IA

**Don't Look Now.** 2 discs. color. 110+ min. Criterion Collection. 1973. DVD ISBN 9781604659528. \$29.95; 1-disc Blu-ray ISBN 9781604659511. \$39.95. Rated: R.

Venice in winter provides a foreboding presence in Nicolas Roeg's *The Man Who Fell to Earth* haunting drama about a married couple trying to get over their daughter's accidental drowning. Laura (Julie Christie) takes comfort from a blind psychic, while John (Donald Sutherland) denies his own "second sight"—a failure with tragic consequences. A modern classic with a devoted following, Roeg's restored masterwork offers a meticulous mosaic of past, present, and future events culminating in a shocking finale.

**Force Majeure.** color. 119+ min. In Swedish w/English subtitles. Magnolia Home Entertainment. 2014. DVD UPC 876964008112. \$26.98; Blu-ray UPC 876964008129. \$29.98. Rated: R.

The majestic view of a controlled avalanche turns terrifying for a Swedish family at an outdoor restaurant in the French Alps when the snow looks to engulf them. It turns out to be a false alarm, but Tomas (Johannes Bah Kuhnke) has

already bolted, leaving his wife (Lisa Lovén Kongsli) and two scared kids to fend for themselves. Rather than own his reflexive response, Tomas denies it happened. Awkwardness gives way to anger, guilt, and shame in Ruben Östlund's discussion-provoking drama of a family in crisis.

**Honey ("Miele").** color. 96+ min. In Italian w/English subtitles. Kino Lorber. 2013. DVD UPC 738329146726. \$29.99.

In her surprisingly assured directorial debut, actress Valeria Golino (*Rain Man*) casts screen-holding Jasmine Trinca (*The Son's Room*; *The Best of Youth*) as a freelance angel of mercy—an assisted-suicide provider for seriously ill clients. But when she consents to help a middle-aged architect who later turns out to be existentially not clinically depressed, Honey (real name, Irene) reevaluates her line of work while beginning a friendship with her abortive customer. This Cannes Film Festival contender is a real find.

**Jean de Florette/Manon of the Spring.** 2 discs. color. 233+ min. In French w/English subtitles. Shout Factory. 1986. Blu-ray UPC 826663155877. \$35.99. Rated: PG.

A hunchbacked city resident (Gérard Depardieu) inherits farmland he plans to cultivate for a living, only to be thwarted



by a conniving neighbor (Yves Montand) and his conspiring nephew (Daniel Auteuil) who secretly cut off key spring water—an act with tragic reverberations for everyone,

including the farmer's grown daughter (Emmanuelle Béart). An epic two-part tale of greed and reprisal, Claude Berri's superbly lensed period drama epitomizes timeless filmmaking. A genuine crowd pleaser at last makes its hi-def debut.

**Les Blank: Always for Pleasure.** 5 discs. color. 569+ min. Criterion Collection. 1968–1995. DVD ISBN 9781604658866. \$124.95; 3-disc Blu-ray ISBN 9781604658859. \$124.95.

Fourteen features plus six short films celebrating the estimable career of independent documentarian Blank (1935–2013) run the gamut of unseen American culture with an inquiring if unobtrusive style. Ethnic cuisines, regional music, outré art, quirky customs, and other unusual subjects are nicely captured. Digitally scrubbed but retaining their oft-grainy 16mm origins, these diverse docs—with appreciation by kindred spirit Werner Herzog—deserve (re)discovery by aficionados of nontraditional cinema.

other bands associated with the PF movement, archival clips of rallies and chapter meetings, and candid, in-depth new interviews with an impressive list of such prominent DC scenesters as outspoken activist Mark Andersen, local music legend Ian MacKaye, and record label manager Jenny Toomey. Worthwhile bonus features include full versions of live performances from the main film and two brief featurettes. **VERDICT** This informative and inspiring film about several generations of punks singing about positive social change and working to make it happen should appeal to socially conscious music fans of all ages, especially viewers interested in learning about the mix of punk, politics, and activism in the DC underground music scene.—Douglas King, Univ. of South Carolina Lib., Columbia

**Zubin Mehta: Zubin and I.** color. 66+ min. In English & Hebrew w/English subtitles. Ori Sivan, Ruth Diskin, dist. by SISU Home Entertainment, www.sisuent.com. 2014. DVD ISBN 9781560867456. \$125; acad. libs. \$225. Public performance;

digital \$399; w/PPR \$499; home version \$24.95. MUSIC

An annoying buzzy soundtrack is the first problem any viewer encounters on this Israeli DVD devoted to one of the world's foremost classical musicians. However, the real stumbling block will be the content: an amalgam of family history and an awe-struck fan's portrait of Zubin Mehta (b. 1936), music-director-for-life of the Israeli Philharmonic. Yet director Sivan knows nothing about classical music, as he admits. He vents his anxieties about interviewing Mehta as he tries to figure out how to manage this "Cultural Heroes" film project (he decides it will be "therapy" for him). Members of his family may enjoy Sivan's exploration of his aunt's bitter attitude toward the hard work of being a harpist in the orchestra (she left just before Mehta was hired), and some Israelis may get a kick out of a few of Mehta's responses. **VERDICT** This odd mixture of home movie and hero worship is not ready for wide distribution. [See Trailers, LJ 9/1/14.]—Bonnie Jo Dopp, librarian emerita, Univ. of Maryland, College Park

★ **Finding Vivian Maier.** color & b/w. 84+ min. John Maloof & Charlie Siskel, Ravine Pictures, dist. by IFC Films, www.ifcfilms.com. 2015. DVD UPC 030306937694. \$24.98. SDH subtitles. PHOTO/BIOP

*Mysterious and strange.* Those two words pop up again and again whenever local historian-turned-filmmaker Maloof interviews those individuals who thought they knew Vivian Maier (1926–2009). Maier worked as a nanny in Chicago during the 1950s, caring for the children of several families, preparing meals, taking the kids on jaunts, and doing light housework. Their recollections are of a tall woman, extremely private, playful sometimes but tough, too, and always with a camera around her neck. As the children grew up and she grew older, Maier became even more solitary, living as a hoarder and a recluse, until she finally died barely noticed in 2009. When Maloof discovered quite by accident her negatives in a storage container bought at auction, he began to share them on Flickr and was rewarded with tremendous feedback. Piecing together Maier's life and getting her photog-