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DVD Extra

Is that DVD you've got your eye on really worth the investment? Should you wait a few months until the "Special Edition" hits shelves? Or wait a few months after *that* for the "Director's Cut Definitive Edition"? DVD Extra lights the way.

August 24 DVD roundup

By [Harry Thomas](#) on Aug 23, 10 09:25 PM | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#) [Save & Share](#)

Lots to offer this week, but not much mainstream: "The Back-up Plan" is about it. However, the big one to spend your money on is the sixth and final season of "Lost." Or you can shell out for the box set of all six seasons. Several documentaries and music videos abound, along with a number of British films making their BD debut. Too bad they don't have any extras to sweeten the deal.

Usual rules apply: synopses are taken from the press releases, snarky commentary is extra, and preview links go to Apple.com. And just in case you were wondering, the DVD prices are the listed retail prices. You can get them cheaper if you buy at discount stores or online.

Sorry this is a few days late; I didn't have time to finish it before going on vacation last week. My apologies.

\$5 A Day

Image Entertainment, 98 minutes, PG-13

DVD: \$27.98

BD: \$29.98

Con-man Nat (Christopher Walken) is trying to reconcile with his son Flynn (Alessandro Nivola) before succumbing to an illness. He convinces Flynn to travel cross-country with him to an experimental medical facility. Since they don't have a lot of money, they can only spend \$5 a day. I don't know about that: I drove to Las Vegas and back last week and it too two days and cost \$200 in just gas each way. Extras: interviews, still galleries.

Abandoned

Anchor Bay Entertainment, 93 minutes, not rated

DVD: \$26.97

BD: \$34.98

Brittany Murphy's final film has her taking her boyfriend Kevin (Dean Cain) to the hospital for some minor surgery; when she returns to pick him up, there are no records of him and she is declared unstable. A mystery man offers to reveal Kevin's whereabouts, but he wants \$10 million. I dunno, I'd tell him to keep the guy. No extras listed.

The Age of Stupid

New Video, 92 minutes, not rated, \$29.95

In the devastated Earth of 2055, one man (Pete Postlethwaite) remains in "The Global Archive," reviewing why mankind didn't save themselves back in the early 2000s via news clips, interviews and scientific reports. Extras: making-of documentary, deleted scenes, extended interviews, 8 short climate films, commentary, more.

The Back-up Plan

Sony, 106 minutes, PG-13

DVD: \$28.95

BD: \$34.95

Jennifer Lopez is single New Yorker Zoe, dreaming about meeting Mr. Right, having a baby and living happily ever after. After a series of dismal failures, she decides to take on motherhood alone. Moments after her procedure, she meets the man of her dreams. Can she hide the pregnancy until the marriage? Comedy is supposed to ensue. Can't imagine that Focus on the Family is too happy about this one. Extras: deleted scenes, making-of featurette. BD adds BD-Live/movieIQ+sync capacity.

Cactus - Live, Loud and Proud

MVD Visual, 60 minutes, 13 songs, not rated, \$19.95

Concert footage of the band shot on the 2006/07 tours. I never heard of them, either. Extras: interviews, music video, featurette.

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Chuck Close

New Video, 119 minutes, not rated, \$29.95

Documentary on the contemporary painter, who creates portraits using a unique technique. No extras listed.

City Island

Anchor Bay Entertainment, 104 minutes, PG-13

DVD: \$29.98

BD with digital copy: \$34.98

Vince Rizzo (Andy Garcia) lives in the Bronx enclave of City Island. He's a corrections officer who wants to be an actor and secretly takes acting classes. His wife Joyce (Julianna Margulies) thinks his weekly "poker games" are a cover-up for an affair. After Vince reveals his biggest secret in class, it stars off a chain of events that brings everyone's little white lies to light. Also stars Alan Arkin. Extras: featurette, commentary, deleted scenes.

Clash of the Dinosaurs

Discovery Channel/Gaiam, 172 minutes 4 episodes, \$14.98

Documentary series focuses on the dinosaurs, using CGI to dissect them and figure out how they managed to survive. No extras listed.

Death Note Collection

Warner Bros., 380 minutes, 2 films, 3 discs, \$39.98 (BD)

Japanese films inspired by a manga comic have a law student who is fed up with the justice system. When he finds the Death Note, he uses it to start ridding the world of evil by writing their names in the book. That person dies soon thereafter. BD debut. Extras: standard definition bonus disc with behind-the-scenes footage.

Delerium: Epiphany

MVD Visual, 95 minutes, 12 songs, not rated, \$16.95

2008 concert video from band known for its blend of Electropop, sacred and world music. Extra: short film "Delerium," featurette, interviews, fan footage.

Dinosaur Train

PBS Kids/Paramount, 120 minutes, 8 episodes, \$14.99

CGI series mixes two of preschoolers favorite subjects: dinosaurs and trains, and uses it to teach them basic scientific thinking and skills. Very popular show, at least according to the press release. Extras: interactive games, printable coloring pages, parents' resources, dinosaur guide.

Flight of the Conchords: The Complete Collection

HBO, 22 episodes, 5 discs, \$49.98

HBO comedy series about two New Zealand folk singers that travel to New York to make it big. Yeah, good luck with that. Extras: live, 30-minute special, deleted scenes, outtakes, "Dave's Pawn Shop" commercials, "Consulate Meetings."

Gossip Girl: The Complete Third Season

Warner Bros., 935 minutes, 22 episodes, 5 discs, \$59.98

Third season of the blogger known as Gossip Girl, who uncovers and fuels every scandal on Manhattan's Upper East Side. Hearts will be broken. Extras: interactive viewing experience on one episode, featurette, two music videos, gag reel, deleted scenes.

The Great Rift: Africa's Greatest Story

BBC Earth/Warner Bros., 176 minutes

DVD: \$19.98

BD: \$24.98

Documentary on animals in Africa's Great Rift. Extras: 1 hour of unseen footage, featurettes.

The Incredible Human Journey

BBC Video, 293 minutes, 5 episodes, 2 discs, \$29.98

Anatomist and anthropologist Dr. Alice Roberts explores how *homo sapiens* managed to colonize the entire world in only 60,000 years. No extras listed.

Johnny Winter: Live Through the '80s

MVD Visual, 60 minutes, 18 songs, not rated, \$19.95

Clips of the legendary blues/rock guitarist in concert, culled from several live performances in the 1980s and interspersed with interviews throughout. No extras listed.

The Least Among You

Lionsgate, 97 minutes, PG-13, \$19.98

Richard Kelly (Cedric Sanders) is falsely arrested and sent to an all-white seminary after the 1965 Watts riots. As the only black student, he faces daily racism and abuse, until a kindly janitor (Lou Gossett, Jr.) takes him under his wing. Faith-based film is based on a true story. Extras: interviews, featurette, deleted scenes.

The Long Good Friday

Image Entertainment, 113 minutes, R, \$17.97 (BD)

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Mob boss Harold Shand (Bob Hoskins) and his wife (Helen Mirren) partner with American mobsters to turn London docklands into Olympic training grounds. But a series of bombings lead him to realize he is being targeted by the IRA. BD debut. No extras listed.

Lost: The Complete Sixth and Final Season

ABC Studios, 714 minutes, 15 episodes, 5 discs

DVD: \$59.99

BD: \$79.99

It's either the best show on television, or the most over-rated. There's no denying that wunderkind producer/director J.J. Abrams' "Lost" is a legitimate phenomenon along the lines of "The Sopranos" or "Star Trek." And now it's over. Crying line is on the left; cheering line is on the right. Extras: bloopers, deleted scenes, four episode commentaries, four featurettes. BD adds what appears to be the "lost" episode of "Lost."

Lost: The Complete Sixth and Final Season

ABC Studios, 5074 minutes, 36 discs

DVD: \$229.99

BD: \$279.99

And if you weren't collecting the individual seasons, you can now buy a big box of them all. Extras: all the extras that were part of the individually sold seasons; four new featurettes, a "Senet" game replica, an island replica, episode guide, an Ankh and a blacklight penlight. Kind of a bummer if you did buy all the other ones. No word if the bonuses will be sold separately.

Mona Lisa

Image Entertainment, 104 minutes, R, \$17.97 (BD)

Bob Hoskins in his feature debut as a thug just out of prison who is given a job by his old boss (Michael Caine) as chauffeur to call-girl Cathy Tyson. He develops a crush on her, which leads to trouble. BD debut. No extras listed.

Nickelodeon Favorites: Happy Halloween

Nickelodeon/Paramount, 149 minutes, 6 episodes, \$16.99

Six Halloween-themed episodes for preschoolers: "Dora the Explorer," "Go Diego Go," "Wonder Pets," "Yo Gabba Gabba," "Blue's Clues" and "Ni Hao, Kai-lan." Tad early for Halloween, but you can beat the rush, I guess. No extras listed.

The Patty Duke Show: The Complete Third Season

Shout! Factory, 870 minutes, 32 episodes, 6 discs, \$39.97

Final season of the 1960s adventures of Patty Lane and her Scottish cousin Cathy Lane as they navigate New York City and boys. Extras: "Still Rockin' in Brooklyn Heights - The Patty Duke Show" Cast Reunion Movie, PSAs, interviews.

Private

New Video, 100 minutes, 20 (web) episodes, not rated, \$19.95

Web series about a girl (Kelsey Sanders) who gets accepted to an exclusive private boarding school. She struggles to fit in with the cliquish girls there, and then finds herself in the middle of a murder mystery. For the young teen girl set only. Extras: interviews, featurettes, music video.

Red vs. Blue: Recreation - Season 7

New Video, 120 minutes, 19 (web) episodes, not rated, \$19.95

Web series based on the characters of the shooter game "Halo." Follows the comical misadventures of the Red and Blue teams. Extras: commentary, deleted scenes, outtakes, special videos/PSAs.

Showdown Air Combat

Discovery Channel/Gaiam, 7 episodes, \$19.98

History's biggest aerial dogfights are analyzed. No extras listed.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Turtles Forever

Nickelodeon/Paramount, 73 minutes, \$16.99

The four shell-kickers meet up with their doppelgangers from another dimension when a teleporting mishap occurs. They all have to team up to find the Technodrome to fix the problem. However, Shredder tracks down his counterpart Ch'rell, and they plan the destruction of both sets of Turtles. Uh-huh. This is a series that appears to have jumped the shark a long time ago. No extras listed.

Time Bandits

Image Entertainment, 116 minutes, R, \$17.97 (BD)

Monty Python alum Terry Gilliam directed this romp where young Kevin (Craig Warnock) gets abducted through his closet by a bunch of time-traveling little men. Also stars John Cleese, Sean Connery, David Warner and Ian Holm. BD debut. No extras listed.

Tom and Jerry Meet Sherlock Holmes

Warner Bros., 44 minutes, \$19.98

The cat and mouse duo meet the legendary detective. No extras listed.

The Truth

Maverick Entertainment Group, 96 minutes, not rated, \$24.98

A couple (John Heard, Erin Cardillo) is taken hostage in their home by an intruder (Brendon Saxton III), but it's not your typical home invasion. The wife may know the intruder; the husband may have crossed paths as well. Supposedly, this is the #4 traded film on the BitTorrent file sharing service, right after "Toy Story 3." No extras listed.

Withnail And I

Image Entertainment, 107 minutes, R, \$17.97 (BD)

A couple of destitute roommates, Withnail (Richard E. Grant) and Marwood (Paul McGann) in 1969 London go on holiday in the miserably cold countryside at Withnail's Uncle Monty (Richard Griffiths). British comedy has a cult following over there, but isn't too well known in America. BD debut. No extras listed.

Wordgirl: Tricks & Treats

PBS Kids/Paramount, 100 minutes, 8 episodes, \$14.99

The girl superhero with the big vocabulary and her sidekick Captain Huggy Face defeat villains with word power and knowledge. Sort of a female "Encyclopedia Brown," but she dresses up in costume. Extras: interactive games, printable coloring pages, parents' resources.

[Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg](#)

Docurama Films, 92 minutes, \$29.95

Documentary about Gertrude Berg, the "first woman of television," who started in radio and moved to TV sitcoms in the early days of the medium. She wrote, starred in and produced them in a time where women didn't normally do such things.

Extras: commentary, episodes of "The Goldbergs," guest appearances with Edward R. Murrow and Ed Sullivan, additional scenes, interviews, recipes, more.

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