

NEW RELEASES

THE LATEST DVD, BLU RAY & VOD RELEASES

BY BRET LOVE AND JOHN MOORE

Love & Mercy (Lionsgate)

Easily the best music-based biopic to come along in years, *Love & Mercy* focuses on the tragic period in the life of Beach Boys' Brian Wilson when he was struggling with mental problems and under the control of Svengali Dr. Eugene Landy (played flawlessly evil by Paul Giamatti). Just about every role here is brilliantly cast; Elizabeth Banks plays one of her best roles yet as Melinda Lebetter, the woman who ultimately rescues Wilson. Also turning in great performances are John Cusack as Wilson in the 1970s and Paul Dano as the younger Wilson. The movie is sentimental without being sappy and manages to show Wilson in an unbiased light – not always a given with biopics. Even if you were never a fan of Wilson or The Beach Boys, it's still a fantastic movie about struggle, compassion and moving on.

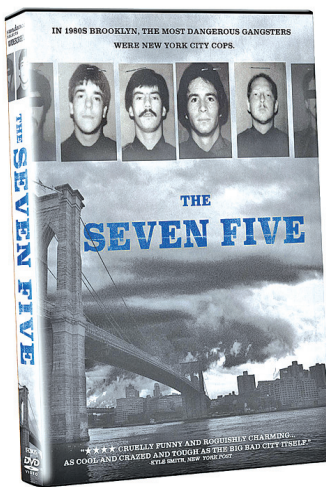


on the rise and drug dealers were flush with cash. It's easy to see then how dirty cops could take advantage of the situation for so long, skimming money from the dealers and swiping product. The *Seven Five* looks into a slew of dirty cops at one notoriously corrupt East New York precinct. Through interviews with the guilty cops and a number of dealers, the doc tells the story of how one greedy officer, Michael Dowd, managed to get his partner and fellow cops in on the

Salad Days: A decade of Punk in Washington, DC (1980-90) (MVD)

The 1980s were a boon for independent punk rock scenes in America as kids from the suburbs to the city realized they could start a band with little more than angst and a willingness to play loud music. Washington DC, thanks in part to the conservative Reagan and

Bush administrations there, gave rise to one of the most exciting punk scenes at the time. Everyone from Minor Threat and Fugazi to The Bad Brains and Scream is covered here in great detail here. Director/writer Scott Crawford, a music journalist and musician from the DC music scene, was able to grab interviews from an impressive collection of punk rock royals (including Ian MacKaye, Henry Rollins, Dave Grohl, Thurston Moore and Kevin Seconds). With *Salad Days*, Crawford has pulled together one of the best punk docs in recent years.



All American High Revisited (Virgil Films)

This 1987 documentary was never really considered a seminal film. It was selected for Sundance, seen by some and then forgotten. But with the release of *American High Revisited* the film gets a second chance. It shows what an average California high school in 1984 looked like, through the eyes of a foreign exchange student attending the school for a year. From the cliques (punks, metal heads and preppies) to the parties and, of course a trip to the mall, the film is a fun, nostalgic look at a high school that could have been a stand in for anywhere in U.S. at the time. The extra 10 minutes of the movie are priceless, as the director catches up with many of the students in the doc.

The Seven Five (MPI Home Video)

New York in 1980s, with the crack epidemic hitting the city hard, was an urban hell. Crime was rampant, ODs were

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