



video, so, now, cinephiles everywhere can finally cross it off their bucket lists. The film's brilliance is evident from the first scene, a three-minute rumination on why downtown is disproportionately prominent in the movie version of Los Angeles (the city may be mostly flat, but high-rises look great on the big screen), along with clips from 15 different films and a thesis: "If we can appreciate documentaries for their dramatic qualities, perhaps we can appreciate fictional films for their documentary revelations." **VERDICT** Essentially a tour of the imaginary city that appears in the 200-plus movies excerpted here, led by an extraordinarily witty and erudite guide. Regular visitors to movieland will find it well worth the price of admission.—**Andrew Horbal, Univ. of Maryland Lib., College Park**

Looking for Johnny: The Legend of Johnny Thunders. color & b/w. 138+ min. **Danny Garcia, Chip Baker Films in assoc. with Jungle Records, dist. by MVDvisual, 800-888-0486; www.mvdb2b.com. 2014. DVD UPC 760137654490. \$16.95. MUSIC**

This captivating documentary by Garcia (*The Rise and Fall of the Clash*) chronicles the short life and lasting legacy of former New York Dolls guitarist and Heartbreakers front man Johnny Thunders (1952–91). Garcia zips a bit too quickly through Thunders's Queens, NY, childhood and early attempts at rock stardom with prepunk glam band the New York Dolls. The pace thankfully slows down, and the film becomes more interesting as Thunders leaves the Dolls and forms the short-lived Heartbreakers, whose gritty image and aggressive but melodic songs heavily influenced the next wave of punk. Thunders later embarked on an uneven solo career, which is covered in impressive detail. New interviews with friends and former bandmates, archival photos and video clips, and riveting live footage mesh well to paint an honest portrait of a musician and songwriter crippled by a heroin addiction that likely contributed to his mysterious death at age 38. **VERDICT** One of underground rock's truly iconic figures finally gets his story told in this entertaining and informative documentary that is recommended to viewers interested in early American punk.—**Douglas King, Univ. of South Carolina Lib., Columbia**

Keeping the Fire Alive: Navigating Challenges in the Spiritual Life with Albert Haase, OFM. color. 180 min. **Charity Spatzbeck-Olsen, dist. by Paraclete, 800-451-5006; www.paracletepress.com. DVD ISBN 9781612615660. \$89.95. Public performance. REL**

Franciscan Father Albert Haase, former missionary in China and seasoned spiritual

director, here offers a follow-up to his previous video, based as well on his 2013 book, *Catching Fire, Becoming Flame*. Using much scriptural material and works from the Catholic mystical tradition, Haase addresses how to keep one's spiritual flame burning. His six presentations—"Grace and Spiritual Direction," "Resisting Temptation," "The Four Ds" (dryness, darkness, depression, and desolation), "Making Sense of Suffering," "Living in the Present Moment," and "Agenda of the Ego"—offer an animated Haase deftly relating to the topics. Relevant illustrations and graphics help to reinforce his message. While based on the Catholic tradition, the video would appeal to anyone seeking a deeper spiritual life. **VERDICT** Though not replacing face-to-face direction, the solid advice offered in this program, filmed in front of a live audience in such a way that the viewer feels part of the group, will help anyone who has been struggling with their spirituality.—**Augustine J. Curley, Newark Abbey, NJ**

★ **Broadway Theatre Archive: Great Performances; Set 1.** 4 discs. color & b/w. 357 min. **Talent Assocs. & others, dist. by Kultur, www.kultur.com. 2014. DVD ISBN 9780769749266. \$39.99. THEATER**

All originally television broadcasts, the material on the first disc in this set reminds viewers of a time in the not too distant past when talented giants such as Lee J. Cobb, Mildred Dunnock, and Arthur Miller roamed the American stage. Even within the limitations of 1966 TV technology, this *Death of a Salesman* crackles, breathes, and demonstrates what great theater was and still can be. A very young and singing Meryl Streep inhabits the growing and shrinking Alice in *A My Name Is Alice*, produced by the legendary and very powerful Joe Papp. Music by quirky Elizabeth Swados is very much of its time (1982), bits of world beat and a bit of offbeat hallucinogenics. Streep also graces Wendy Wasserstein's *Uncommon Women and Others*. Among the others are Swoosie Kurtz and Jill Eikenberry lunching with their former classmates and reminiscing about time at their private Catholic school. True to the age of women's and personal liberation, as a work of theater it appears dated and stagey, more clever than engaging, with only Streep's brilliantly underacted performance looking fresh. Ntosake Shange's seminal *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow Is Enuf* recently received the Tyler Perry treatment. This version, filmed in 1981, is closer to the sparsely staged original, though still much more realistic and traditional. The work's author re-creates her Broadway role. Alfre Woodard and Lynn Whitfield are

dazzling. **VERDICT** For every library collection.—**Gerald A. Notaro, emeritus, Univ. of South Florida Lib., St. Petersburg**

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Wrestling for Jesus: The Tale of T-Money. color. 72+ min. **Nathan Clarke, Fourth Line Films in assoc. with Skunk Films, dist. by Dreamscape Video, www.dreamscapeab.com. 2014. DVD UPC 884501588676. \$24.99; public performance \$199.99. BIOP/REL**

Filmmaker Clarke's debut full-length documentary covers an eventful year in the life of Timothy Blackmon (also known as T-Money), founder of a small professional wrestling circuit in North Augusta, GA, whose matches are primarily platforms for Christian worship and fellowship. Before homing in on Blackmon's story, Clarke spends a large portion of the film introducing a colorful cast of characters who entertain while evangelizing. What begins as an aimlessly amusing and superficial look at members of a rural Southern religious subculture becomes a compelling and intimate tale of how one man's faith is tested, as Blackmon grapples with his father's suicide, legal troubles, and the collapse of his marriage. Running a fledgling sports enterprise and preaching to wrestling fans take a backseat to Blackmon's personal struggles, and the film becomes increasingly engaging as his story plays out in various directions, leading to a climactic and emotional but seemingly authentic finale that is sure to spark discussion. **VERDICT** Supporters of small-budget indie docs on atypical individuals will appreciate the premise and storytelling in Clarke's thought-provoking film, whose appeal should extend beyond wrestling fans and religious audiences. Clips, blog, reviews, and more at www.wrestlingforjesus.com.—**Douglas King, Univ. of South Carolina Lib., Columbia**

★ **Silicon Valley: Where the Future Was Born.** color. 90 min. **Randall MacLowry, Film Posse Prod. for American Experience, dist. by PBS, shoppbs.org. 2014. DVD ISBN 9781608838363. \$24.99. SDH subtitles. BUS**

This *American Experience* documentary chronicles how the transformation of California's Santa Clara Valley into Silicon Valley changed the world, tracing its origins back to 1957 when a group of eight young engineers started Fairchild Semiconductor. According to the film, the groundwork was laid a year earlier when transistor inventor William Shockley (1910–89) opened a laboratory in the valley that attracted brilliant engineers from across the country. The video features two interconnected stories. The first consists of the technological breakthroughs that developed the silicon chip,