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"This is a story about pride. And also a story about prejudice," begins director Kahn's love letter to the prolific, powerful, billion-dollar romance industry. Kahn interviews readers, writers, publishers, publicists, other industry professionals, and professors studying the perceptions of romance through literature and history to provide a wide range of viewpoints of this often denigrated field. According to statistics, "Last year, 75 million Americans read at least one romance novel." Romance readers and writers cover the gamut of age, race, education, and professional background, although they remain predominantly female. But "writers are readers" at heart, which makes this industry one of the most supportive to fans and prospective authors alike. Part of Kahn's strategy is to show how much work goes into creating a romance novel, delving deeper into the lives of a few authors, for example, Radclyffe, Eloisa James, Beverly Jenkins, Celeste Bradley, Susan Donovan, and Nora Roberts. While Kahn covers everything from lesbian romance to Christian romance and all the time periods and paranormal variations in between, there is the noticeable omission of male/male and ménage titles,

and BDSM is barely mentioned despite the popularity of *Fifty Shades of Grey*. **VERDICT** The joy and excitement of the participants here are palpable. Kahn's focus on Jenkins in particular is moving, as the author makes a strong case for a wider readership of African American romance. If your library owns romances, show readers some love and buy this film.—Melanie C. Duncan, Shurling Lib., Macon, GA

Pee-wee's Playhouse: Seasons 3, 4, & 5; Special Edition. 4 discs. color. 540+ min. Paul Reubens & others, Herman World, Inc., dist. by Shout! Factory, www.shoutfactory.com. 2015. DVD UPC 826663152616. \$29.93. TV

The enduring popularity of Pee-wee Herman and his beloved *Playhouse* is owing to the values they impart to viewers of all ages. Although the adult-themed humor of Pee-wee's previous stage, screen, and TV appearances was toned down for Saturday-morning audiences, creator/writer/performer/director Reubens and his dedicated cohorts used care and an ample production budget to present a lavish, visionary experience. In the series' final 23 episodes, collected here, each color is bright (looking sharp in this remastered edition, even in standard definition), the animal puppets and inanimate objects take on lives of their

own, the visual effects and abundant animated segments are blissfully pre-CGI, and the multiethnic cast make the message plain without preachiness: individuality, imagination, honesty, and decency are indispensable. Includes new interviews with the cast and crew. **VERDICT** Kitschy and campy but undeniably charming, there's still nothing like a trip to this *Playhouse*. Recommended to fans and the young at heart alike.—J. Osicki, Saint John Free P.L., BC

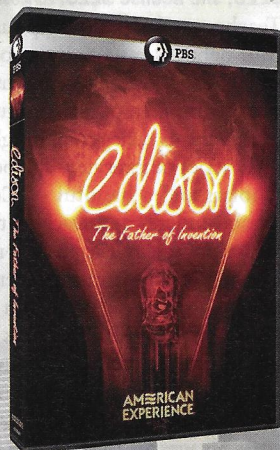
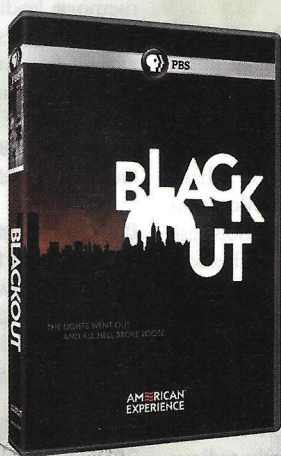
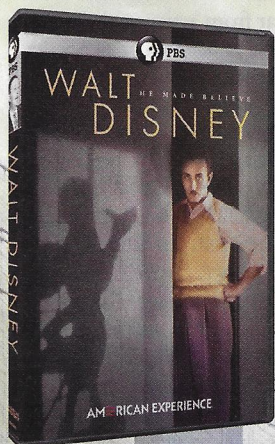
SOCIAL SCIENCES

Killing Jimmy Hoffa: 40th Anniversary Edition. color & b/w. 80 min. AI Profit, Augustus Entertainment, dist. by MVDvisual, www.mvdb2b.com. 2015. DVD UPC 760137726890. \$14.95. CRIME

Forty years ago, labor leader James Riddle "Jimmy" Hoffa disappeared. What happened to him has never been conclusively determined despite decades-long investigations and numerous books and films. This new documentary provides a fresh look at Hoffa's background and the environment in which he came of age and operated. Interviews with historians, former FBI agents, journalists, authors, and prosecutors recount his life and review his rise in the Teamsters union. His entanglements with organized



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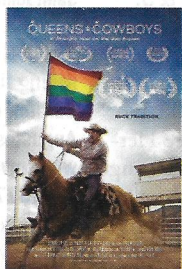
RODEO DREAMS

Cowboy Christmas. color. 75 min. H.D. Metyl, Spiracle Media, dist. by Dreamscape Video, www.dreamscapeab.com. 2015. DVD UPC 857063005080. \$22.99; public performance \$199.99. SPORTS

"Cowboy Christmas" is how insiders refer to the two weeks leading up to the Fourth of July, during which there are numerous rodeos held and thus many opportunities to rake in winnings and try to qualify for the finals in Las Vegas. The film follows four steer wrestlers over one such period, focusing on the ins and outs and highs and lows of these competitions. The film also provides the backstories of the quartet, including their many similarities (rodeo as a family tradition and the ultimate good life) and contrasts (young/old, black/white). The visuals contribute greatly to the story; in particular, the open vistas underscore for the viewer the conflicting feelings of freedom and loneliness these men describe during the seemingly endless drives between venues.

VERDICT This surprising glimpse into the world of modern-day cowboys will appeal to fans of Westerns and rodeos and anyone curious about this unique lifestyle.—Sara Holder, McGill Univ. Lib., Montreal

Queens and Cowboys: A Straight Year on the Gay Rodeo. color. 93 min. Matt Livadary, dist. by Alexander Street/Filmmakers Library,



www.academicvideostore.com/filmmakers. 2015. DVD \$295; 1-yr. streaming \$149; 3-yr. streaming \$299; in perpetuity \$499. Public performance. SPORTS/GENDER STUDIES

This documentary chronicles a season of the International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA), focusing on a handful of participants whose lives revolve around winning an elusive prize buckle.

There is Wade Earp (a distant relative of the famous Wyatt), who has amassed over 200 buckles throughout his career yet has failed to win the top prize of "All-Around Cowboy." Char Duran, a female bull rider, has never won a buckle yet continues in her quest despite multiple injuries. IGRA organizer Travis

Gardner, a transsexual, shares his difficult journey, and young cowboy Chris Sherman painfully recounts growing up gay and facing isolation from family and community. The personal stories are accompanied by tales of the organization's hardships. Discrimination is still encountered as venue owners find excuses to avoid hosting IGRA events, and financial needs must be met amid an aging and dwindling membership.

VERDICT A fascinating documentary that manages to touch and inspire as it also creates the inevitable suspense surrounding who will win the year's top prize.—Phillip Oliver, Univ. of North Alabama Lib., Florence

Collective Eye Films, www.collectiveeye.org. \$49.95; public performance \$85; acad. libs. \$225; site license \$225. ED/MUSIC

Teacher-student duo Trapkus and Potter's film debut is essentially two documentaries in one. The first segment takes a hard look at the state of formal music education in American colleges and high schools, using a series of interview snippets with a few scholars and a handful of Colorado high school students and teachers to explore the important role music plays in many peoples' lives while bemoaning the perceived lack of emphasis on music education in our public school system. Their point is convincingly but repeatedly made in this mostly tedious and preachy portion. The filmmakers eventually turn their attention to how music lovers of all ages are overcoming that perceived lack of formal music emphasis through community groups and classes. These amateur musicians display their various skills and have much to say about finding time and opportunity to practice and perform.

Bonus features include directors' commentary and a drastically shorter version of the feature. **VERDICT** While not especially engrossing, this intelligent and thoughtful film can serve as a conversation starter for viewers interested in learning or teaching music.—Douglas King, Univ. of South Carolina Lib., Columbia

★**Beyond Zero: 1914–1918.** tinted & b/w. 40+ min. Bill Morrison, Hypnotic Pictures, dist. by Icarus Films Home Video, www.icarusfilms.com. 2015. DVD UPC 854565001800. \$24.98. HIST/MUSIC

Here, avant-garde music by Serbian composer Aleksandra Vrebalov, performed by the Kronos Quartet, and 100-year-old archival film arranged by Morrison (*Decasia*) result in an urgently contemporary creation. Morrison organizes deteriorating World War I-era nitrate film into chapters that follow Vrebalov's musical movements. A tonal, optimistic prelude opens with spotty, liquid images of tanks, parades, uniformed North American men with backpacks excitedly boarding a large ship, then uniformed European men with backpacks happily marching behind a brass band. As the music grows more intense and chaotic, these universal soldiers dig trenches, load and fire cannons, bomb buildings, and leave corpses on the ground. Over the string quartet, the composer sprinkles clicking projectors, Béla Bartók playing the piano, and speeches and commands in several languages. Finally, in a coda, Vrebalov's hope feels transcendent: Serbian monks chant a hymn as a lone parachutist peacefully drifts above the fray. Impermanence and the inevitable disintegration of both film and memory, leading to continual warfare, are the true theses here. A bonus feature is an extract from a live performance. **VERDICT** A powerful aural and visual statement about the tragedy of war from artists at the top of their form.—Bonnie Jo Dopp, librarian emerita, Univ. of Maryland, College Park

One Million Dubliners. color. & b/w. 83+ min. Aoife Kelleher, Underground Films, dist. by Kino Lorber, www.kinolorber.com. 2015. DVD UPC 738329167226. \$29.95.

Sacred Ground: The Battle for Mount Auburn Cemetery. color & b/w. 79½ min. David H. Butler, Restoration Films, dist. by Dreamscape Video, www.dreamscapeab.com. 2015. DVD UPC 857063005103. \$19.99; public performance \$199.99. SOC SCI

Cemeteries have unique personalities, often influenced by their location, those who dwell among their plots, and their levels of maintenance. *One Million Dubliners* is about the immaculately groomed Glasnevin Cemetery, opened in Dublin, Ireland, in 1832, with 1.5 million long-term "residents" from

crime and his contentious relationship with the Kennedys, especially Robert, are re-examined. Archival footage, old stills, mug shots, and Mafia family tree graphics illustrate the narrative and powerfully evoke Hoffa's era. There is a very useful summary of the main theories related to Hoffa's demise, and each of the primary suspects is profiled. Though there is no real smoking gun, the filmmakers make a plausible case for their position about who did away with Hoffa and why his body will never be found. **VERDICT** Hoffa buffs will appreciate the rich detail here, especially the exploration of Hoffa's early years. The synopsis of the mystery surrounding the killing of Jimmy Hoffa will appeal to true crime aficionados and anyone who has followed this fascinating case.—Joan Pedzich, formerly with Harris Beach PLLC, Rochester, NY

Carry the Tune: Musical Journeys After High School. color. 68+ min. Paul Trapkus & Elizabeth Potter, Fiddlestick Prods., dist. by