

# COURIER-POST

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

- AMY LONGSDORF

**A Street Cat Named Bob** (2017, Cleopatra, unrated, \$20) This based-on-a-true-story saga centers on recovering addict and street musician James Bowen (Luke Treadaway) whose life takes a turn for the better after he adopts a stray ginger tabby named Bob (played by seven kitties, including the real Bob.) It could have gone wrong in a thousand different ways but director Roger Spottiswoode keeps the tale from turning gooey. It helps that Bob is such a scene-stealer, whether chasing a mouse, perching on Treadaway's guitar or knocking down the Christmas tree of the movie's chief villain. Extras: none.

**The Greasy Strangler** (2016, Film-Rise, unrated, \$20) Movies don't come any more bizarre than this one-of-a-kind father/son saga that whips together elements of gross-out comedy and low-budget horror. Ronnie (Michael St. Michaels) and his son Brayden (Sky Elobar) run a disco walking tour in Los Angeles when they stumble upon a woman (Elizabeth De Razzo) who catches their eye. Brayden begins dating her first, which incenses Ronnie who tries to win her over. But betrayal is the least of Ronnie's sins. He also dips himself in lard before murdering folks who annoy him. Creepy, violent and occasionally funny, "The Greasy Strangler" aims to unsettle you and, boy, does it succeed on that count. Extras: none.

**The Assassin** (1961, Arrow, unrated, \$30) Newly restored for its Blu-ray bow, the directorial debut of Italian master Elio Petri ("The Tenth Victim") is a sparkling black-and-white thriller that places under the microscope a morally dubious antiques dealer named Martelli (Marcello Mastroianni) who's accused of murdering his older, far wealthier lover (Micheline Presle). As the police badger Martelli, his flashy lifestyle is put on trial. Petri is particularly gifted in his use of flashbacks while Mastroianni proves that he can make even a slithery character strangely sympathetic. Extras: featurettes.