

# video

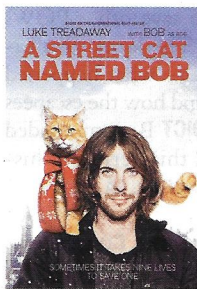
## FICTION

**The Bureau: Season 1. 3 discs. 520 min. In French w/English subtitles. Eric Rochant & others, dist. by Kino Lorber, [www.kinolorber.com](http://www.kinolorber.com). 2016. DVD UPC 738329208127. \$49.95. F**

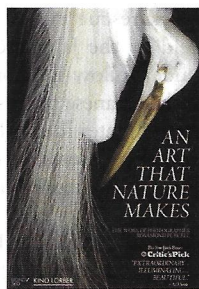
This French television series follows a group of undercover agents within the French secret service who assume false identities, known as legends, for years at a time. One agent who was in Damascus, Syria, for six years returns to the Paris office but has trouble completely shedding his legend. A new recruit who creates the elaborate identity of a seismologist must demonstrate competency in her field in order to be selected to work in Iran. Another character has the mundane job of watching cell phone patterns to determine terrorist activity. *The Bureau* is very slow-paced compared to U.S. spy thrillers, but tension builds with each episode as more is learned about these individuals and their lives inside and outside of the Bureau. **VERDICT** The deliberate pace might frustrate some viewers, but, overall, this new series is highly recommended.—Christine Rigda, Univ. of Toledo

**Chasing the Devil. color. 83+ min. Mark Haber, dist. by Kino Lorber, [www.kinolorber.com](http://www.kinolorber.com). 2016. DVD UPC 738329208066. \$24.95. HORROR**

Patrick McCord (Tim Phillips) recruits a group of ghost hunters to prove his sister's alleged suicide was caused by demonic possession. As they follow clues at the death site, they unearth evidence that the sinister influence that killed his sister has now latched onto an entirely unrelated teenage girl. The team work to help the possessed victim and uncover further cryptic signs within physical manifestations from the infected youth, such as coughed-up objects and even within their own footage that begins to reveal the name of the demon but not its sinister goal. *Chasing the Devil* is squarely within the found footage genre of horror made popular by the original *Blair Witch Project*. It adds a new twist by having the paranormal investigators intentionally film themselves in hopes of finding answers. **VERDICT** Not a significant horror entertainment, this film does have enough clever ideas and low-budget pizzazz to recommend it for fans of found footage looking for a slightly different flavor.—Douglas Rednour, Georgia State Univ. Lib., Atlanta



Finding friendship with a feisty feline; the singular art of an outstanding photographer



**The Horrible Dr. Hichcock. 77+ min. Robert Hampton, dist. by Olive Films, [olivefilms.com](http://olivefilms.com). 2016. DVD UPC 887090126519. \$24.95; Blu-ray UPC 887090126618. \$29.95. SDH subtitles. HORROR**

Doctor Bernard Hichcock (Robert Flemyng) is renowned for his specialized anesthesia as much as for his surgical skills. What is less well known is that comatose and pliant women turn him on, causing the doctor to play a romantic game periodically with his wife, Margherita, whereby she lovingly agrees to be put under during lovemaking. One fateful night, however, the good doctor gives in to his unhealthy passions and doses his lover with far too much of his potent drug, which results in her death. Ten years later, he takes the ravishing Cynthia (Barbara Steele) to be his new bride. As she explores his magnificent manor overlooking his family crypt and old laboratory, Cynthia becomes curious about a locked room that she is forbidden to enter, and she begins to believe there is someone hiding in the house. **VERDICT** A grand old spooky film, this oneiric ode to the gothic horror formula includes a flowing undercurrent of fetishistic necrophilia mixed among multiple subtle homages to the cinema of Alfred Hitchcock.—Douglas Rednour, Georgia State Univ. Lib., Atlanta

**The Lodger. b/w. 84+ min. John Brahm, dist. by Kino Lorber, [www.kinolorber.com](http://www.kinolorber.com). 2016. Blu-ray UPC 738329207298. \$29.99. The Lodger: A Story of the London Fog. 2 discs. b/w & tinted. 91+ min. Alfred Hitchcock, dist. by Criterion Collection, [www.criterion.com](http://www.criterion.com). 2017. DVD ISBN 9781681433189. \$29.95; 1-disc Blu-ray UPC ISBN 9781681433172. \$39.95. [Trailers, U/5/1/17] F**

What's in a name? With apologies to Shakespeare, Jack the Ripper called by any other name would terrify as easily. In Hitchcock's 1927 silent film, the infamous serial killer is dubbed The Avenger. British matinee idol Ivor Novello stars as an enigmatic chap who rents a room, falling under suspicion of the landlady for his romantic interest in her daughter—a curly-

haired blonde who fits the look of the killer's victims. In his third feature, the budding Master of Suspense brings a dash of German Expressionism to a thriller whose finale is compromised by the casting of a handsome leading man with an image to maintain. In a far different choice, a hulking Laird Cregar stars as Mr. Slade in Brahm's moody 1944 remake, cutting a menacing figure whose fatal attraction to a stage actress (Merle Oberon) raises the ire of her cop boyfriend (George Sanders). With an emphasis on visual storytelling over dialog, the impeccably restored Hitchcock version is mercifully short on intertitles. Brahm's focus on the killer's psychology creates a more complex character in an above-average genre picture that gives Hitch a run for his money. **VERDICT** Both releases offer extras—commentaries, making-of featurettes, interviews, etc.—but Criterion's includes the filmmaker's follow-up, *Downhill*. For vintage fright-film fans.—Jeff T. Dick, Davenport, IA

**Mercy Street: Season 2. 2 discs. 360+ min. Stephen Cragg & others, dist. by PBS, [shoppbs.org](http://shoppbs.org). 2017. DVD UPC 841887029377. \$39.99; Blu-ray UPC 841887029384. \$49.99. SDH subtitles. F/TV**

The second season of this Civil War drama picks up where the first concluded. The staff of the makeshift hospital in Alexandria, VA, do their best to care for the wounded as the war sloughs on. Tensions have eased somewhat among the personnel as they also deal with additional challenges including small pox and a completely out-of-touch new hospital chief who believes in phrenology. Many of the war's previous loyal supporters are becoming disillusioned as the turmoil takes its toll on family and friends. Sadly, there is little joy in Season 2, but there continues to be a generous amount of rather gruesome surgery. **VERDICT** This series' many story lines (maybe too many?) provide a glimpse into the types of conflict and suffering real people likely experienced during the Civil War. This series concludes with this set; a strong choice for most public libraries.—Joan Greenberg, Warminster, PA

**A Place to Call Home: Season 4. 3 discs. 630 min. Shirley Barrett & others, dist. by Acorn Media, [www.acornonline.com](http://www.acornonline.com). 2017. DVD UPC 054961247295. \$59.99. SDH subtitles. F**

Season 4 of this superb Australian series continues to keep viewers on the edge of their seats. All the familiar characters but one have returned (Sarah's husband, Rene, died in Season 3), and a new face appears in the shape of a frosty police sergeant who takes an instant dislike to Sarah



(Marta Dusseldorp). Regina (Jenni Baird), now Mrs. George Bligh, poisons a bottle of Doris's tonic intended for Sarah, but a chance breeze sends its label flying, and it goes instead to a beloved young Inverness teacher, who is then deemed a suicide. Only Sarah suspects murder. Anna and Gino are threatened by Regina's plotting; Olivia learns James is having a gay romance and leaves him, taking Baby Georgie and moving in with her former lover; matriarch Elizabeth survives her heart attack but won't let Douglas Goddard know she didn't reject him. Can the plot get any thicker? Oh, yes. George (Brett Climo) swears to Sarah that they will be together, but achieving it seems more impossible than ever. **VERDICT** Highly recommended for public libraries and all entertainment collections.—**Sheila S. Intner, Professor Emerita, Simmons GSLS at Mt. Holyoke Coll., South Hadley, MA**

**A Street Cat Named Bob.** 103+ min. Roger Spottiswoode, dist. by MVDvisual, [www.mvdb2b.com](http://www.mvdb2b.com). 2017. DVD UPC 760137975199. \$19.99; Blu-ray UPC 760137975182. \$24.95. BIOPIC  
The widely popular best-selling British memoir series by James Bowen comes to life in this gentle adaptation directed by

Spottiswoode (*Turner and Hooch*). When homeless street busker James (Luke Treadaway) overdoses on heroin in a stranger's car, he wakes to find himself with a second chance at life in the care of a firm but sympathetic support worker (*Downton Abbey*'s Joanne Froggatt). James's new welfare flat comes with a surprise guest—a wounded ginger tabby he christens Bob. James's parents' divorce has left him hesitant to form attachments, and, at first, he resists taking in the feline. When the intrepid stray follows James onto the bus, they begin a journey on the London streets that inspires James finally to kick his methadone dependency. Animal lovers will delight in James's transformation into a dedicated cat person (Treadaway shares the screen with the real-life Bob the cat). **VERDICT** The perfect film for viewers who like their happy ever after with a side of grit.—**Amanda Westfall, Emmet O'Neil Lib., Mountain Brook, AL**

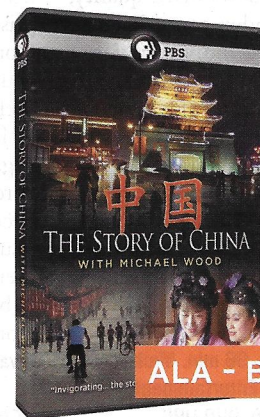
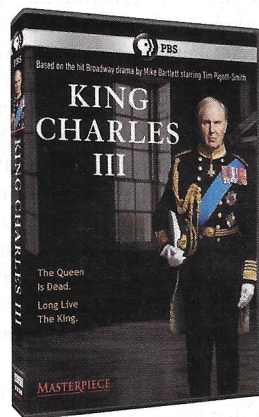
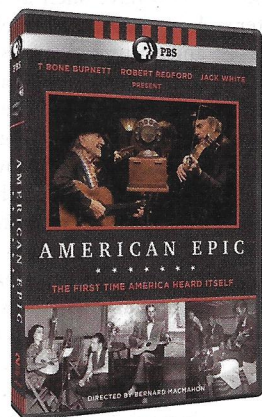
**The Syndicate: All or Nothing.** 2 discs. 366+ min. Kay Mellor & Dominic Leclerc, dist. by Acorn Media, [www.acornonline.com](http://www.acornonline.com). 2016. DVD UPC 054961252992. \$39.95. SDH subtitles. f  
Each episode in the series chronicles a

small group of average folks who are part of a lottery betting syndicate in England. In this third entry, the syndicate members are the five loyal staffers at Hazelwood Manor, a centuries-old country house owned by the aging Lord Hazelwood (Anthony Andrews), who is £6.5 million in debt. When the servants win £14 million, they decide to buy into the manor and make it a paying concern, with tours, etc. A humble Lord Hazelwood is all in, his high-and-mighty second wife and her arrogant adult son not so much. A parallel drama concerns the 17-year-old daughter of housekeeper Dawn (Elizabeth Barrington), who appears to have been kidnapped. **VERDICT** Giving the servants the upper hand is a clever twist on the upstairs-downstairs theme and works fairly well despite the tangle of additional multi-layered subplots. For public libraries.—**Joan Greenberg, Warminster, PA**

**ARTS & HUMANITIES**  
**Materia Wood.** 48 min. Paola Castrota, dist. by Green Planet Films, [www.greenplanetfilms.org](http://www.greenplanetfilms.org). 2016. DVD UPC 714497273891. \$39; public performance acad. libs. \$295; digital rights available. Closed-captioned. ART-GENERAL  
Working with wood is a time-honored

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