

Box-office hit 'Transformers' gets high-def release on Blu-ray

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP Movie Writer

"Transformers"

The huge, shape-shifting Autobots and their new best bud (Shia LaBeouf) return to fight the evil Decepticon, this time in Blu-ray high-definition format. LaBeouf stars as a youth who becomes an ally to the transforming Autobots as their war with the Decepticons comes to Earth. The two-disc set of the summer 2007 blockbuster has a huge range of behind-the-scenes material, including an interview with executive Steven Spielberg, segments with the movie's Pentagon advisers on military action and equipment and commentary with director Michael Bay. While watching the movie, viewers also can access background details and short making-of videos. Blu-ray set, \$39.99. (Paramount)

"Then She Found Me"

Helen Hunt makes her directing debut and stars in this romance about a New York City schoolteacher whose life takes abrupt new turns: Her husband (Matthew Broderick) deserts her, her adoptive mom dies, her birth mother (Bette Midler) reappears in her life and she finds a fresh relationship with the newly divorced father (Colin Firth) of one of her students. The DVD and Blu-ray release come with cast interviews and commentary with Hunt, who also co-wrote the screenplay. DVD,

\$27.98; Blu-ray, \$35.98. (Image)

"The Promotion"

John C. Reilly and Seann William Scott are grocery workers going to extremes to undermine each other for a manager's job at a new store. The DVD has deleted scenes, outtakes, a making-of segment and commentary with writer-director Steve Conrad and his producers. DVD, \$24.95. (Genius)

"Bright Lights, Big City"

The '80s are revived in this 20th anniversary edition of the film starring Michael J. Fox as a writer partying through Manhattan like a madman to relieve his family strife. The DVD has behind-the-scenes featurettes and commentary with Jay McInerney, who adapted the screenplay from his novel. DVD, \$14.98. (MGM)

TV on DVD

"The Big Bang Theory: The Complete First Season"

The humdrum social lives of science-geek roommates (Johnny Galecki and Jim Parsons) are spiced up when a beautiful neighbor (Kaley Cuoco) moves into their building. The first 17 episodes come in a three-disc set, along with cast interviews. DVD set, \$29.98. (Warner Bros.)

"Life: Season One"

A cop (Damian Lewis) imprisoned for 12 years for a murder he did not commit is exonerated and returns to the police force with a \$50 million settlement and a strange new outlook on life and crime-solving. A three-disc set has the first 11 episodes, plus deleted scenes and commentary. DVD set, \$29.98. (Universal)

"The Office: Season Four"

Steve Carell returns as the grinning idiot of a boss at a paper company regional branch, along with his mischievous co-workers (John Krasinski and Jenna Fischer), overeager second-in-command (Rainn Wilson) and other nutty colleagues.

The fourth year's 14 episodes come in a four-disc package, with commentary and deleted scenes. DVD set, \$49.98. (Universal)

"Desperate Housewives: The Complete Fourth Season"

Teri Hatcher, Felicity Huffman, Eva Longoria and Marcia Cross get a new neighbor (Dana Delany) whose family brings fresh intrigue. The five-disc set has 17 episodes, along with deleted scenes, a segment with the male co-stars and cast commentary. DVD set, \$59.99. (Disney)

"Cheers: The Tenth Season"

Ted Danson and his Boston bar cohorts

return for the comedy hit's next-to-last season. The 10th year's 25 episodes are included in a four-disc set. DVD set, \$42.99. (Paramount)

"Ghost Whisperer: The Third Season"

Jennifer Love Hewitt talks with dead folks in the series about a medium who helps lay to rest unfinished matters between the living and departed loved ones. A five-disc set has year three's 18 episodes. DVD set, \$68.99. (Paramount)

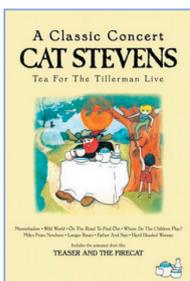
"Supernatural: The Complete Third Season"

Brothers (Jared Padalecki and Jensen Ackles) resume their battle against ghosts, demons and other creatures from beyond that keep butting into our world. The season's 16 episodes are packed in a five-disc set. DVD set, \$59.98. (Warner Bros.)

"It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown"

Charles M. Schulz's Peanuts gang returns in a new DVD edition of the perennial Halloween special that debuted in 1966. The disc includes a featurette tracing the long history of the show. DVD, \$19.98. (Warner Bros.)

New DVD captures Cat Stevens at his 'Tillerman'-era best



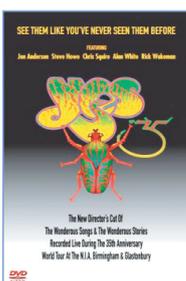
"A CLASSIC CONCERT: CAT STEVENS — TEA FOR THE TILLERMAN LIVE" (Wienerworld/MVD Visual) ★★☆☆ — Long before converting to Islam, changing his name to Yusuf Islam and supporting the bounty on author Salman Rushdie's head, Cat Stevens was one of popular music's most prolific — and best — singer-songwriters. Just try tuning to a 1970s soft rock radio station without hearing classic Cat Stevens tracks like "Oh Very Young," "Can't Keep It In," "Moonshadow" and "Peace Train."

In a recording career that spanned a dozen years and included a handful of stellar releases, 1970's "Tea for the Tillerman" generally is considered his masterpiece. This fantastic DVD chronicles a classic live performance from 1971 in which Stevens serves up stellar renditions of "Wild World," "Father and Son," "Hard Headed Woman," "Moonshadow," "Where Do the Children Play?" and many more.

Don't be misled by the title, however, because "Tea for the Tillerman Live" includes much more than material from that sublime record. It comes off as more of a greatest hits concert, with Cat playing the best songs in his repertoire to an intimate but appreciative American audience.

Additionally, there's the animated short film "Teaser and the Firecat." With bizarre narration from actor/author Spike Milligan, the film hasn't aged very well and probably is for hardcore fans only. (Jeffrey Sisk)

"YES: THE DIRECTOR'S CUT" (Studio T/MVD Visual) ★☆☆ — Unlike my colleague Dave Fennesy, there's only so much progressive rock I can handle. So when it came time to screen "Yes: The Director's Cut," a two-DVD set that clocks in at a ridiculous 200-plus minutes combined, I wasn't sure if I was going to make it all the way through in a single sit-



ting. Or at all, for that matter. I consider myself a casual Yes fan and have a couple of their albums in my collection, but Jon Anderson, Steve Howe, Rick Wakeman, Alan White and Chris Squire always were too proggy for my taste. I've always enjoyed their singles more than their albums ("Fragile" and "90125" being the notable exceptions).

The film includes two full-length concert performances by Yes as part of the band's 35th anniversary world tour in 2003. The first was recorded at the N.I.A. Birmingham and the second at the Glastonbury Festival. There are plenty of great moments — "Siberian Khatru," "Don't Kill the Whale," "And You And I," "Long Distance Runaround" and "Roundabout" — but I can only recommend it to those who worship at the Yes altar or, really, really love prog rock. (JS)

"JOHN MAYALL'S BLUESBREAKERS: LIVE AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY" (Quantum/MVD Visual) ★★½ — As the elder statesman of British blues, John Mayall's contributions to blues-rock can't be understated. After all, he's the guy who discovered Eric Clapton, Peter Green and Mick Taylor in the mid-1960s. John McVie, Jack Bruce, Mick Fleetwood and countless others played with Mayall's Bluesbreakers at one time before going on to become stars. Sadly, none of those guys were around when this so-so concert was filmed at Iowa State University in 1987. The Bluesbreakers that took that night in Ames, Iowa, included Walter Trout, Coco Montoya, Paul Hines

and Bobby Haynes. Though a talented collection of musicians in their own right, they aren't exactly household names.

"Live" packs a lot of music into its 85-minute running time, with the band winning over the crowd with solid renditions of "Rolling With the Blues," "Riding on the L&N," "Stepping Out" and "Room to Move." Bonus features include a discography and a biography of the band.

While an OK performance, the film makes it clear that Mayall's best days were behind him by the mid-1980s. Maybe that's why he was in Iowa. (JS)



"THE MEATMEN: THE DEVIL'S IN THE DETAIL, VOL. 1" (Meatmen/MVD Visual) ★★½ — In a career that somehow has spanned almost three decades, the Meatmen have been fixtures on the American hardcore punk scene.

Always quick to offend — this is the band that gave us albums entitled "Crippled Children Suck," "Pope on a Rope" and "We're the Meatmen ... and You Suck!" — the Meatmen made as many enemies as fans over the years by making graphic jokes at the expense of

women, minorities and homosexuals. Go figure. "The Devil's in the Detail" was a labor of love by punk archivist Dirk Boinker (think that's his real name?), who spent two years pouring over old Meatmen footage. The result is a fairly entertaining 90-minute package of live clips spanning the band's entire career, plus a handful of music videos.

Highlights include performances of "I'm Glad I'm Not a Girl," "Die Foreign Scum," "Tesco's Tender Love Ballad," "War of the Super Bikes," as well as the videos for "Tooling for Anus," "Camel Jockeys Suck" and "I Want Drugs." Most of the material here is offensive as hell, but it's kinda funny, too. You've been warned. (JS)