

DVD WRAP-UP

By Rachel Lux, Ted Barnes and Tim Karan



THAT '70s SHOW: THE COMPLETE SERIES STASH BOX (FOX)

Who knew a period sitcom about stoner high school kids in middle-of-nowhere Wisconsin would strike such a chord with teenagers across the country? Though the series drifted toward the cheesy side in its last few seasons, when the show was in its prime, the relatable characters (the geek, the rebel, the heartthrob, the girl next door, the princess and the weird kid everyone keeps around for entertainment), and their everyday circumstances growing up, falling in love and building friendships, cemented its place in TV's success club (and launched the career of Ashton Kutcher, but that's an entirely separate matter). With all 200 episodes spanning 32 discs, this is the perfect gift for anyone who relishes sitting around in their parents' basement (or at least remembering doing so), waiting for something to happen. Hello, Wisconsin indeed.

EXTRAS > Retro "Record Box" packaging, keepsake yearbook, finale script signed by the cast, photos, cast interviews, character timelines, featurettes



GHOST HOUSE UNDERGROUND (LIONSGATE)

Just in time for your Halloween film fest, Lionsgate is unleashing an eight-disc horror flick collection, as chosen by Sam Raimi and Rob Tapert (the peeps behind *The Evil Dead*, *30 Days Of Night* and *Spider-Man*). If the dude who repeatedly cast the amazingly awesome Bruce Campbell says it's worth watching, you best listen.

EXTRAS > Audio commentary, featurettes, storyboard comparisons, cast and crew interviews



THE HAPPENING (FOX)

What happens when people begin inexplicably offing themselves in the most gruesome ways imaginable? What if the movie starts out really awesome but gets a little iffy in the middle? Then you realize you're watching a film by M. Night Shyamalan (*The Village*, *Lady In The Water*) and prepare yourself for the inevitable letdown.

EXTRAS > Deleted scenes, gag reel, featurettes



MYSTERY SCIENCE THEATER 3000: 20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION (SHOUT! FACTORY)

The *MST3K* crew reunite: Four never-before-released episodes plus interviews, lobby cards, a figurine and more? Holy shit! Though the set could use a little more Joel, and *Future War* is so terrible even the crew of the *Satellite Of Love* can't save it, the entire set is still a recipe for a nerdgasm.

EXTRAS > Featurettes, new interviews and collectibles in an embossed tin



PARANOID PARK (GENIUS)

Director Gus Van Sant's haunting and compelling story of a young skateboarder who accidentally committed a murder portrays moral dilemmas in the face of adolescence and is sure to hit you in the gut. Even if Jenny (Taylor Momsen) from *Gossip Girl* co-stars.

EXTRAS > Theatrical trailer, "Making Of" and "Future Shows: Secret Cinema Event" featurettes



THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY (WARNER HOME VIDEO)

Impress your friends with your literary prowess and classic film knowledge. For the first time on DVD, this critically acclaimed 1945 horror film—based on Oscar Wilde's novel about a man who stays young forever while his portrait ages, Pre-pre-Murder *She Wrote* Angela Lansbury picked up the Academy Awards' Best Supporting Actress nod, too.

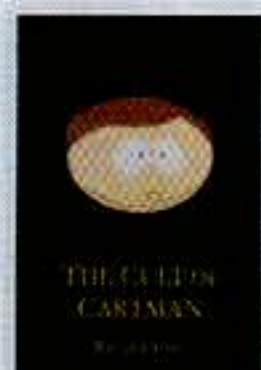
EXTRAS > Commentary with Lansbury, theatrical trailer, *Stairway To Light* short and *Quiet Please!* cartoon



PUNK ROCK KARAOKE (MVD)

Punk up your next karaoke sesh with ready-to-sing-along-with vids performed by the Punk Rock Karaoke Band—Eric Melvin (NOFX), Greg Hetson (Bad Religion), Steve Soto (Adolescents) and Derek O'Brien (Social Distortion). The repertoire includes tunes originally recorded by Stiff Little Fingers, Black Flag, Buzzcocks, Minor Threat, Dead Kennedys and more.

EXTRAS > The videos include the option to sing along with instrumental tracks, or to duet with special guest vocalists



SOUTH PARK: THE CULT OF CARTMAN (COMEDY CENTRAL/PARAMOUNT)

At some point during the past decade, Eric Cartman went from being the obnoxious fat kid in *South Park* to the embodiment of everything wrong with humanity. For proof, look no further than this two-disc compilation of Cartman's best worst moments.

EXTRAS > Episode introductions by Eric Cartman; "What, What In The Butt," *The Daily Show* With Jon Stewart "Baracknophobia," *The Colbert Report* "Cookie Monster" and *Reno: 911!* "Prostitution Sting" featurettes



THE STRANGERS (UNIVERSAL)

In this harrowing, dark film, we see the twisted sides of Bettie Boop, Casper The Friendly Ghost and Trinity from *The Matrix*. Writer/director Bryan Bertino takes this simple premise and blends it with every cliché in slasher-film history. The resulting movie is both brilliant and striking. The scariest part? Liv Tyler actually does a good job.

EXTRAS > Deleted scenes, "The Elements Of Terror" featurette with anecdotes from Tyler



YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN (SONY)

Oh, Adam Sandler. How we miss your glory days on *SNL* and in slap-happy movies like *Happy Gilmore* and *Billy Madison*. Though we give you props for tackling Middle East race-related issues with humor, we just wish that humor would have been, well, funny.

EXTRAS > Director commentary, featurette, deleted scenes and alternate takes



The Classics ACCORDING TO KEITH

EVERY TIME I DIE FRONTMAN KEITH BUCKLEY WAXES CINEMATIC ON THE MORE IMPORTANT FILMS OF OUR TIME—SORT OF.



REAL GENIUS (1985)

STARS: Val Kilmer, Gabe Jarret, William Atherton

THE PLOT > This is undoubtedly the pioneer film in which a zany rabble-rouser, who knows a thing or two about fun, shows a bunch of hidebound squares the value of letting their hair down. Chris Knight (Kilmer) is basically Van Wilder's grandfather. He and 15-year-old Mitch Taylor (Jarret) are hired by asshole Professor Jerry Hathaway (played by Atherton, who has "vile" down to a science) to build a 5-megawatt laser. Seeing it as an opportunity to advance their careers and bore 95 percent of the audience with the kind of terminology Dennis Miller would jerk off Dr. Gregory House to, the boys hit the lab. After a string of college parties,

atrocious puns and some major setbacks, they *finally* realize that bromide is an excimer, frozen in its excited state, and is possible to synthesize in an argon matrix. No shit, Sherlock. *Obviously* this theory works and the laser is handed over to Hathaway who immediately turns it over to the government, who had hired *him* to develop a weapon that could vaporize people from space. C'mon, guys. Really? You didn't realize that when building a very high-powered, portable laser operating at one megajoule per liter that all you needed was a tracking device and a large spinning mirror, and you'd have a *weapon*? Give me a break. Real genius, my ass. Good luck getting your laser back, dummies.

THE POINT > Once I finally sat down after my solo, four-minute standing ovation upon this film's conclusion, I began to understand that the real genius as referenced by the title was not Val Kilmer's character simply because he devised a laser. Nor was it Gabe Jarret's character for his assistance in eliminating mankind. No, it was director Martha Coolidge who has, through the medium of film, shown a generation of shiftless, witless, unfunny and tremendously self-important dickheads that being in a band is not your only career option.