

the newly-shot material a rare sense of authenticity, and despite the low-key tone, this story of an ordinary 21-year-old soldier preparing for a dangerous ordeal carries great emotional power, while scenes of troops rehearsing the invasion in Britain creates a mood of considerable dread. As is typical with Criterion Collection releases, *Overlord* is presented with a crisp transfer and a host of extras, including audio commentary by Cooper and Stirner, a featurette on the use of the Imperial War Museum's materials, extended footage of a British propaganda film excerpted in *Overlord*, a 1943 government featurette on newsreel and service cameramen documenting the war, Cooper's 1969 short "A Test of Violence" about the works of Spanish painter Juan Genovés, excerpts from two soldiers' journals read by Stirner, a narrated photo essay with Cooper talking about how Robert Capa's D-Day photos influenced *Overlord*, and a 30-page booklet featuring essays. Recommended. (*F. Swietek*)

### Robson Arms: The Complete First Season ★★½

Music Video Distributors, 2 discs, 285 min., not rated, DVD: \$24.95



Robson Arms, a Vancouver apartment building notably faded from its former elegance, is home to an eclectic group of confused, lovelorn, all-around intriguing tenants, including a divorced mom and her schoolboy son, newlyweds who keep secrets from each other, an extended Chinese-American family who run the convenience store in the lobby, and the complex's greaseball super. Compiling all 13 episodes of the 2005 first season of this critically acclaimed Canadian half-hour dramedy on two discs, *Robson Arms* sports a loose connection between episodes, as each program peeks behind the door of a different apartment, giving viewers fresh insights into modern urban neuroses (imagine *Seinfeld* as written by Anthony Trollope). The cast may not be as well-known in the U.S. as they are north of the border, but some of the more famous faces include Mark McKinney (from *The Kids in the Hall*), William B. Davis (Cancer Man on *The X-Files*), and Margot Kidder. DVD extras include audio commentaries, a discussion of the opening sequence by series co-creator Gary Harvey, and a second season preview. Highly recommended. (*M. Johanson*)

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