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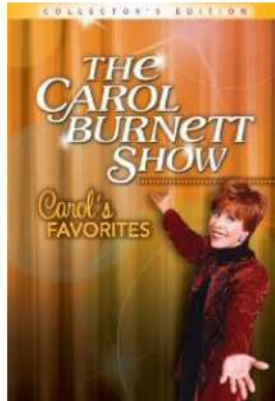
Pop Culture Classics' Recommended CDs, DVDs and Books

By Paul Freeman

DVDs

"THE CAROL BURNETT SHOW - CAROL'S FAVORITES"

When the topic of female comedians is discussed, Carol Burnett's name is inevitably one of the first to pop up. Her CBS variety series was launched in 1967 and continued for 11 Emmy-filled years. Time Life has issued a six-DVD set filled with 17 complete episodes. (It's also available in one and two-disc packages). Burnett is a classic clown, who could be touching, as well as hilarious. She was ably abetted by Tim Conway, Vicki Lawrence, Lyle Waggoner and Harvey Korman. She was adept at the musical numbers, as well. The DVD package abounds with great guest stars, including Steve Martin with a special stand-up set targeted at canine viewers. He also plays the Richard Dreyfuss and Frankie Avalon roles in "Close Encounters" and "Beach Party" spoofs. Of course, Burnett's most famous parody, "Gone With The Wind," is another highlight. So is Roddy McDowell singing a love duet with Carol, while in his "Planet of the Apes" makeup. Among other guests are Dinah Shore, Betty White, Joanne Woodward, Maggie Smith, Carl Reiner, Shirley MacLaine, Vincent Price, Joan Rivers, Jim Nabors, Phil Silvers, Jean Stapleton and The Jackson Five. There are many memorable "Mama's Family" sketches, plus examples of another audience favorite, Tudball & Wiggins, the befuddled boss and ditz secretary. In the extras, Carol and the other regulars sit around, casually offering amusing insights. Carl Reiner and Betty White are also interviewed. One of the best bonuses is an episode of the program that launched Carol, "The Garry Moore Show." And this particular edition includes a "Supergirl" sketch in which she unleashes, for the first time, her trademark Tarzan yell.



"CHRISTMAS WITH DANNY KAYE"

Bring some nostalgic warmth to your holiday season with this new DVD release. In the '60s, movie star Danny Kaye (who co-starred with Bing Crosby in "White Christmas") moved to television. The versatile, charming performer starred in his own Emmy-winning CBS variety series. This disc offers two complete, digitally restored "The Danny Kaye Show" Christmas episodes. The one from 1963 features guests Nat King Cole and Mary Tyler Moore. The other, from 1966, includes performances by Peggy Lee and a young Wayne Newton. A bonus clip from '65 shows Kaye reading an excerpt from Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

"BEATLES STORIES"

Beatles fan? Think you've seen it all? Heard it all? Think again. This fun, affectionate, clever new documentary, assembled by Seth Swirsky, is brimming with Fab Four anecdotes you've probably never heard. If you met someone who'd had a close encounter with The Beatles, wouldn't you hunger for the details? Well, that's what this film is all about. Among those reminiscing are Luci Baines Johnson, Victor Spinetti, one of the surviving Quarrymen, Bob Eubanks (as promoter of the Hollywood Bowl concert), George's first girlfriend, Ringo's ex-fiancee, May Pang, Klaus Voorman (on the band's first reactions to his art for the "Revolver" cover), The Moody Blues' Justin Hayward (on an unexpected jam session with Donovan and George), Peter Noone (on Lennon slipping the teen Hermit some rum), Rick Nielsen, Badfinger's Joey Molland, Art Garfunkel, Davy Jones, Susanna Hoffs, Smokey Robinson, photographer Henry Diltz, John's last personal assistant, Henry Winkler and Elvis pal Jerry Schilling, Do you know what "Monday Night Football"'s Frank Gifford's connection with John Lennon is? Many of the stars interviewed were just as starstruck by their Beatle interaction as you or I would be. These little recollections, some amusing, some touching, give us added insight into The Beatles themselves, as well as into their fans.

"THE DEFINITIVE DOCUMENT OF THE DEAD"

This terrific documentary has been re-edited, remastered and updated. It is indeed the "definitive" look at the making of George A. Romero's horror classic "Dawn of the Dead." The film goes behind the scenes, through on-set footage and interviews, showing how Romero achieves his terrifying and politically provocative works. It goes from pre-production to shooting, to post to distribution. Romero's independence and integrity as a filmmaker, are evident throughout. Though the focus is on "Dawn," there are insights into his other undead projects, "Night of the Living Dead," "Land of the Dead" and "Diary of the Dead," plus the lesser known Romero classic, "Martin." The documentary project, which was created over a span of decades, also touches on Romero's warm, family side. One of the new attractions on the disc is an audio commentary by the doc's writer/producer/director, Roy Frumkes. A teacher, as well as a student of indie film, Frumkes exhibits true zombie zeal.

"SCREWED"

This is an intense, riveting, claustrophobic British prison drama, based on a true story. A soldier returns from the trauma of fighting with U.K. forces in Iraq. Self-destructive,

Adam Sandler
Al Franken
Al Kooper
Alan Alda
Albert Hammond
Alice Cooper
Alvin Lee
Andy Summers
Ani DiFranco
Arnold Schwarzenegger
Art Clokey (creator of Gumby)
Art Garfunkel
Arthur Lee - Love
Ashford & Simpson
B-52's
Badly Drawn Boy
Barbara Mandrell
Barry Mann
Bay City Rollers
Berlin
Bert Jansch
Betty Buckley
Bjou Phillips
Bill Maher
Bill Medley
Bill Monroe
Bill Wyman
Billy Crystal
Billy Joel
Bjork
Blur
Bob Geldof
Bob Mould
Brendan Fraser
Brian Auger
Brian Regan
Brubeck Brothers
Bruce Hornsby
Bruce Willis
Buck Owens
Buggy Guy
Butch Trucks
Buzzcocks
Cameron Diaz
Carlene Carter
Carlos Santana
Carnie Wilson
Carole King
Cate Blanchett
Chevy Chase
Chicago
China Forbes
Chip Taylor
Chris Farley
Chris Hillman
Chris Isaak
Chrissie Hynde
Christian Slater
Christopher Eccleston
Christopher Reeve
Cinematic Titanic
Coldplay
Colin Blunstone
Collins Kids
Concrete Blonde
Corrs
Count V
Cowboy Junkies
Cranberries
Crystal Bernard
Cybill Shepherd
Cyndi Lauper
Dan Aykroyd
Danny DeVito
Dave Brubeck
Dave Clark
Dave Davies
Dave Mason
Dave Matthews
Dave Mustaine
David Byrne
David Cassidy
David Crosby
David Gates
David Grey
David LaFlamme
David Lee Roth
Dean Torrence
Dean Torrence
Debbie Harry
Demi Moore
Depeche Mode
Devo
Dick Clark
Dick Dale
Dolly Parton
Don Everly
Dudley Moore
Duran Duran
Dwight Yoakum
Earl Klugh
Ed O'Neil

