

VIDEO VIEWS ... more than meets the eye

by Bob Morello

WEDNESDAY

(Blu-ray)

Warner Bros. Discovery Home Ent.

From the creators Alfred Gough and Miles Millar and director Tim Burton, the kooky and spooky first season of *Wednesday*, the TV series based on Wednesday Addams of the iconic Addams Family, which streams on Netflix and is now available on Blu-ray. *Wednesday: Season One* is a sleuthing, supernaturally infused mystery charting Wednesday Addams' years as a student at Nevermore Academy. Wednesday's attempts to master her emerging psychic ability, thwart a monstrous killing spree that has terrorized the local town and solve the supernatural mystery that embroiled her parents 25 years ago — all while navigating her new and very tangled relationships at Nevermore. The series stars Jenna Ortega as Wednesday, Gwendoline Christie as Principal Larissa Weems, Jamie McShane as Sheriff Donovan Galpin, Hunter Doohan as Tyler Galpin, Percy Hynes White as Xavier Thorpe, Emma Myers as Enid Sinclair, and Joy Sunday as Bianca Barclay. Guest stars include Catherine Zeta-Jones as Morticia Addams, Luis Guzmán as Gomez Addams, Isaac Ordóñez as Pugsley Addams, and Fred Armisen as Uncle Fester. The critically acclaimed series received 12 Emmy nominations in 2023 including 'Outstanding Comedy Series' and 'Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series' for Jenna Ortega who became the second youngest woman to ever be nominated in the category and the third Latina following Rita Moreno and America Ferrera. Tim Burton was nominated for 'Best Director for a Comedy Series.' The eight-episode series remains Netflix's most popular English TV series of all time.

CRAIG BEFORE THE CREEK (DVD)**Cartoon Network/Warner Bros. Discovery Home Ent.**

Get ready for big adventures, laugh-out-loud whole-hearted family fun, and a magical mystery with the long-awaited prequel to the hit Cartoon Network series *Craig of the Creek*. Discover the origin story of the Creek's greatest explorer trio — Craig, JP, and Kelsey — in a way we've never seen them before, on this newly released DVD. Now in its fifth season, one of Cartoon Network's top 10 series, in 2023 the series garnered over 13 million viewers. A spin-off series featuring Craig's little sister Jessica, premiered in 2023. *Craig of the Creek*'s pilot premiered on the Cartoon Network on February 10, 2018. Before he was *Craig of the Creek*, he was just Craig — a new kid in a new town. All Craig wants is to go back to his old friends at his old home. But when he learns that the nearby creek is hiding a lost treasure that could make his wish come true, Craig sets off

on a journey to find it — navigating the perilous suburban wilderness, forging new friendships all while being pursued by a fearsome band of pirates who are bent on destroying the Creek itself. *Craig of the Creek* features the voices of Philip Solomon as Craig, Noel Well as Kelsey, H Michael Croner as JP, Vico Ortiz as Serena, Kimberly Hébert Gregory as Nicole, Byron Marc Newsome as Duane, Phil LaMar as Bernard, and Lucia Cunningham as Jessica. DVD copy also includes an exclusive poster inside.

RICK AND MORTY: THE COMPLETE SEVENTH SEASON (Blu-ray)**MVD Adult Swim/Warner Bros. Discovery Home Ent.**

Go on an intergalactic adventure across the multiverse with the critically acclaimed animated hit comedy series from Adult Swim, as *Rick and Morty: The Complete Seventh Season* arrives on Blu-ray. Get ready to binge on one of cables #1 watched comedies — and follow the misadventures of America's favorite crazy scientist and his grandchildren with this outrageous set which includes all 10 episodes from Season 7, along with copious special features curated for the fans, including a deep look into Season 7, and its characters: "Directing Ummortricken," "The Characters of Season 7," and "Inside Season 7."

THE INSPECTOR WEARS SKIRTS 2 (Blu-ray)**88 Films**

Hong Kong's toughest team of fearless lady cops are back on the beat! These female furies are forced to take on both their male counterparts in a battle of the sexes and a team of foreign mercenaries. Action legend Jackie Chan's lethal ladies include Shaw Brothers icon Wai Yin-hung (*My Young Auntie*), Sibelle Hu (*Fong Sai Yuk*) and the bodacious Amy Yip (*Robotrix*). The film's stunning action scenes are again delivered by the Jackie Chan stunt team, who also co-star in the film. *The Inspector Wears Skirts 2* lays down its own brand of law with a madcap action-comedy blend of the mirthful and the martial!

IMPULSE (2-Blu-ray)**Grindhouse Releasing**

When the demons of evil ... take all powers of reason, only *Impulse* remains. Grindhouse Releasing is proud to present one of the most shocking and demented thrillers of the 1970s. William Shatner stars as Matt Stone, a deranged gigolo who preys on rich women, unable to control his murderous psychopathic urges. Directed by legendary exploitation filmmaker William Greéfe, and co-starring Jenifer Bishop, Ruth Roman, Harold "Oddjob" Sakata and William Kerwin. *Impulse* is being presented in a beautiful new master lovingly restored in 4K from rare archival 35mm film elements.

The time has come, the walrus said,

TO TALK OF MANY THINGS
of shoes and ships and sealing wax of cabbages and kings

by Sal Giarratani

I'M NOT BUYING NO NEW TRUMP BIBLE

I couldn't believe it when I heard Donald Trump announced he was selling a product called the "God Bless the USA Bible". A friend of mine told me, this is the only Bible endorsed by Trump as if that's supposed to get me to buy one. I wish Trump would stop doing stupid things. He's starting to sound like one of those many televangelists selling God on TV. These characters urge their congregations to send them your hard-earned money and God will make you richer in return.

Trump needs to stay in his own political lane. He's not a preacher, he's a politician. No good ever comes from mixing these two things up.

MEMORIAL DANCE FOR SHAUN FOLAN

The Memorial Dance for Shaun Folan will be held Friday, April 5th at the Irish Social Club in West Roxbury starting at 7:00 p.m. Music will be by John Connors and the Irish Express. Proceeds benefit

the Mary Mulvey Jacobson's Families in Need and BIDMC Oncology Research.

GOLD STAR DINNER MAY 10TH

Beachmont VFW Post 6712 will be hosting a Gold Star Dinner on Friday, May 10th at 6:00 p.m. To purchase tickets, call 339-226-0005 or email BeachmontVFW@gmail.com.

Featuring DJ Jimmy LaGrassa.

COMMUNITY DINNER

The date for the next Sacred Heart Community Dinner in East Boston is coming up on April 10th starting at 5:00 p.m.

PLUTO IS STILL A PLANET IN ARIZONA

Arizona declared Pluto its official state planet despite it having been relegated to "dwarf planet" status nearly 20 years ago. Pluto was discovered from Flagstaff, Arizona in 1930 and is the only planet to be discovered in the U.S. Long live Pluto.

CELEBRATING GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY WITH A BIG PARADE

This upcoming Sunday, April 7th is Greek Independence Day in Boston. This year's 28th

annual Greek Independence Day Parade commemorating March 25, 1821 will be held in Boston between Boylston and Charles streets starting at 1:00 p.m.

HERE COMES THE 7 DOLLAR TREE STORE

The Dollar Tree Store a few years back raised their base price to \$1.25 and then little by little some items started raising pricing even higher. Now, I heard the Dollar Tree Store is going up on prices even higher. Soon, prices on most items will go up to \$7. SEVEN DOLLARS! Don't know about you but that's a bit too high for mostly imported Chinese junk-stuff.

HEART & SOUL SIRIUS XM ANOTHER GOOD R&B SOUND

Heart & Soul Sirius XM 47 plays some great R&B, both yesterday and today stuff. I just heard Brian McKnight doing his hit "Used to be My Girl." Also, this morning on the way into work on the same Sirius channel I heard "Slowly" by Tank and Eric Roberson singing his hit tune "YOU." These could all turn into tomorrow's Classic R&B.

Enjoy and Protect Hydrangeas from Hungry Deer

by Melinda Myers

Low maintenance, beautiful flowers, and plenty of varieties have made hydrangeas a favorite landscape plant. It seems you can't visit a garden center or nursery without being tempted by one of the traditional favorites or newer hydrangea varieties.

Despite their easy-care nature, hungry deer can make it difficult to fully enjoy these plants. Rutgers University rates landscape plants based on their susceptibility to deer damage. According to Rutgers, hydrangeas are occasionally severely damaged by deer, meaning they are a plant preferred by deer and protection is advised. Your experience may be different and can vary from year to year, but it is always wise to be prepared to protect key plants in your landscape!

Deer like to browse leaves, tender shoots, flower buds, and blossoms. Damage is worse when populations are high, food is scarce, and when environmental stresses like cold and deep snow are present. Once deer find a place to dine, they tend to return. Their damage has a rough or torn appearance as opposed to a clean cut like that made by a pruner. Preventing damage is always the best way to maximize your enjoyment. Even if your plants have escaped damage in the past, continue to watch for deer tracks, droppings, and plant damage.

Fencing is one option but not always the most attractive or



Hydrangeas are a favorite of hungry deer making them susceptible to severe damage so strategies to protect these plants are recommended.

(Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com)

short-term help. Motion-sensitive sprinklers, noise makers, and smells are often used. Several gardeners reported success placing colorful wine bottles inverted over rebar posts. The rattling helped discourage deer browsing and added an ornamental element to the garden. Change scare tactics to increase success.

Place key plants closer to your home, in the back of large beds, or surrounded by less susceptible plants. Making it hard to reach the plants can help discourage damage to hydrangeas.

Repellents are another option. Treat susceptible plants before the deer start browsing for the best results. Look for a rain and snow-resistant product, like organic *Plantskydd* (plantskydd.com), which does not need to be reapplied as often. That means you'll save time applying and spend less money.

Maximize results by treating new growth according to the label directions. Most liquid repellents need time to dry and can only be applied when temperatures are above freezing. Always check the label for the product being applied and follow the directions for the best results.

Continue to monitor the landscape for signs of deer presence and damage and adjust your management strategies as needed. Be persistent so you can increase your success.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *The Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Tree World Plant Care for her expertise in writing this article. Her website is www.MelindaMyers.com.