

video

FICTION

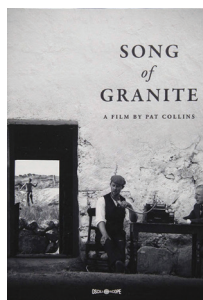
The City of the Dead: Remastered Limited Edition. b/w. 78+ min. John Moxey, VCI Entertainment c/o MVDvisual, www.mvdb2b.com. 2018. Blu-ray UPC 089859903625. \$19.95. HORROR

Looking to research firsthand accounts of New England witchcraft, Nan (Venetia Stevenson) is directed by her instructor Alan Driscoll (Christopher Lee) to visit his quaint old town of Whitewood, where the insidious Satan-worshipping sorceress Elizabeth Selwyn supposedly cursed the town as she sat atop a bonfire. Nan arrives to discover a mist-enshrouded place lost in time, perfect for her study. Unbeknownst to the industrious scholar, Elizabeth (Patricia Jessel) was never executed but instead has held sway over the area, regularly sacrificing humans in the name of Lucifer, with Nan set to be the next “volunteer.” Will anyone get out alive from this most wicked place? **VERDICT** Also known as *Horror Hotel*, this delightfully ominous chiller has remained a classic owing to its excellent pacing, spooky camera work, and perfect thriller plot. Viewers will feel the cultists closing in around them while watching this lovingly restored vision.—**Douglas Rednour, Georgia State Univ. Lib., Atlanta**

Dear Murderer: Series 1. 2 discs. 233 min. Riccardo Pellizzeri & others, dist. by Acorn TV, acorn.tv. 2018. DVD UPC 054961265190. \$39.99. SDH subtitles. F/TV

If Mike Bungay had chosen tails, he would have been an accountant. Instead, while enrolling in college in New Zealand, he let a coin toss determine his academic fate and ended up in law school. This DVD debut follows Bungay (Mark Mitchinson), one of New Zealand’s most controversial criminal barristers and Queen’s Counsels, from the 1960s onward as he attempts to use his unconventional methods to get his clients off of a variety of charges—including espionage and murder—while simultaneously struggling with marital fidelity and an unquenchable thirst for whiskey and other strong spirits. **VERDICT** While Bungay might not be a lovable rogue, he definitely is a compelling one. Anyone who has a craving for British-flavored, character-driven legal dramas such as *Silk* that spend as much time out of court as in will find this import to be an oddly engaging treat.—**John Charles, formerly with Scottsdale P.L., AZ**

Detectorists: Series 3. 2 discs. 179+ min. Mackenzie Crook, dist. by Acorn TV, acorn.tv.



Moody as an Irish mist, a troubadour’s tale; the oft-bewildering world of human sexuality

DVD UPC 054961263097. \$39.99.

SDH subtitles. F/TV

In this nonconformist comedy series, friends Andy (writer/director Crook) and Lance (Toby Jones) happily spend their free time metal-detecting in pastoral Essex, searching for Saxon (or any) treasure. Andy, his wife, and their baby are living with his somewhat formidable mother-in-law (Dame Diana Rigg) to save money for their own home. Lance’s adult daughter (whom he first learned about in Series 2) is temporarily sharing Lance’s small flat, which presents a bit of a privacy issue for Lance and his new girlfriend. When the guys learn that their favorite detecting field will soon become a solar farm, they and their friends in the Danebury Metal Detecting Club spend a glorious English summer day on one last exploration, leading to a happy conclusion to the final season of this engaging show. **VERDICT** A delight for viewers who appreciate subtle humor.—**Joan Greenberg, Warminster, PA**

★ **Endeavour: The Complete Fifth Season.**

3 discs. 540+ min. Brady Hood & others, dist. by PBS, shoppbs.org. 2018. DVD UPC 841887036665. \$39.99; Blu-ray UPC 841887036672. \$49.99. SDH subtitles. F/TV

This is the third series based on characters from the Colin Dexter Inspector Morse novels. *Inspector Morse* (1987–2000) starred John Thaw in the title role, followed by the sequel *Lewis* (2006–15). With *Endeavour* (23 episodes so far), viewers watch the young Morse (Shaun Evans) growing as a detective and a person. The attributes that endeared him to viewers in the original stories are in their formative stages. He is growing to appreciate good English ale, acquires his signature Jaguar, enters into unsatisfactory romances, and struggles to reconcile his ties to both Oxford’s town and gown. It is now 1968, and he is probing organized crime, Russian spies, an ancient Egyptian curse, and a boarding school master. It is a season of transitions as newly promoted Detective Sergeant Morse gains authority, his mentor Inspector Thursday (Roger Allam) talks about retiring, and their local station is slated

for closure. **VERDICT** The plots, characters, and university backdrop will entrance old and new Morse fans all the way to the evocative musical notes ending each episode.—**Lawrence Maxted, Gannon Univ. Lib., Erie, PA**

A French Village (Un Village Français): 1945–; Season 7—Series Finale. 3 discs. 330+ min. In French w/English subtitles. dist. by MHz Network, shopmhz.com. 2018. DVD UPC 815047019669. \$39.95. F

This six-episode final season of the French television series set during World War II in the fictional village of Villeneuve concludes the stories of several townsfolk and their attempts to cope with the German occupation. A realistic and emotional show, it offers few happy endings for the main characters. However, the conclusion is satisfying because it answers questions evoked throughout the series and wraps up major plotlines. It also follows the evolution of the characters from their initial innocence of Season 1 to the hardened and weathered veterans they become in the final days of the occupation. The episodes are well written, illustrating how people must make difficult choices in order to survive. Does that make them at times “bad” people? Perhaps, but it portrays the adaptability of the human spirit. **VERDICT** Highly recommended for all audiences.—**Christine Rigda, Univ. of Toledo**

Newton’s Law: Season 1. 3 discs. 445+ min. Jennifer Leacey & others, dist. by Acorn TV, acorn.tv. 2018. DVD UPC 054961262298. \$49.99. SDH subtitles. F/TV

Josephine Newton (Claudia Karvan) is an Australian solicitor with a devoted staff and a clientele of petty offenders. Forced to close her office after it is firebombed by a disgruntled client, she joins a small up-scale legal practice that includes barrister and old flame Lewis (Toby Schmitz). At the same time, she provides legal advice and emotional support to her former coworkers, who have set up shop in the basement of the building where Josephine is employed. When her new firm learns about a potentially dangerous prescription drug about to hit the market, they collaborate with Josephine’s “basement colleagues” to file a class-action suit, a major endeavor for everyone. Josephine’s domestic life includes a feisty teenage daughter and an estranged husband. She copes with her life’s competing demands thanks to a sharp legal mind, a sense of humor, and pure luck. **VERDICT** This lighthearted legal drama is an entertaining choice suitable for most public library viewers.—**Joan Greenberg, Warminster, PA**

Zama. color. 115 min. In Spanish w/English subtitles. Lucrecia Martel, dist. by Strand