



TERMS OF ENDEARMENT (4K Ultra HD) Paramount Home Ent.

Celebrate the 40th anniversary of the heartfelt drama *Terms of Endearment*, is available for the first time on 4K Ultra HD as part of the Paramount Presents. Based on the novel by Larry McMurtry, *Terms of Endearment* went on to earn 11 Academy Award® nominations and won for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actress in a Leading Role (Shirley MacLaine), Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Jack Nicholson), and Best Writing, Screenplay Based on Material from Another Medium. Both critically acclaimed and a box-office blockbuster, *Terms of Endearment* features a powerhouse cast including Debra Winger, MacLaine, Nicholson, Danny DeVito, and John Lithgow. Originally released on November 23, 1983, the enduring classic follows the ups and downs of a mother-daughter relationship with honesty, heart, and humor.

LION-GIRL (Blu-ray) Cleopatra Ent.

Survivors of a meteor shower defend themselves against each other and monsters that are hunting and killing them to get their life force. Go Nagai's *Lion-Girl* is a new superhero for a new era. In the year 20XX, humanity has almost come to an end. A tsunami of meteors bombarded the entire planet. There were a very small number of survivors. They kill each other for more food, more power, causing 30 years of bloody civil war. The meteorites contain a mysterious ray inside the rock. If a human being is exposed to this ray, the cells in the body mutate and destroy themselves, causing certain death. But in very rare cases, some humans survive the exposure. Those who get exposed to the space ray and survive undergo a metamorphosis into horrific 'meteorite beasts'. People call them 'ANOROC'. ANOROC hunt and kill human beings for their life force. ANOROC are the true enemy of humankind. Now, the Earth has the last defender of humanity against ANOROC; her name is *Lion-Girl*, a superhero Yakuza fighter and a true pursuer of Ninkyo.

FULL BODY MASSAGE (Blu-ray) Unerthed Classics

Mimi Rogers and Bryan Brown sizzle in this highly provocative drama from acclaimed director Nicolas Roeg. Nina (Rogers), a successful but world-weary art dealer is surprised to find that her regular masseur has sent a substitute, Fitch (Brown), to continue her weekly massage session. Fitch's therapeutic caresses, while charged with sexual tension, gain emotional significance as the opinionated pair first clash, and then bond while relaying thoughtful meditations on intimacy and human relationships. Free to discuss her life, hopes and failures, Nina is liberated from her confused world, indulging in a strange, erotic mysticism with her handy muse. Brilliantly helmed by director Roeg, *Full Body Massage* is an exhilarating and sophisticated portrait of sensual love.

RETURN TO DUST (DVD) Film Movement

A tender tale about the transformative nature of love, *Return to Dust* — expands into a poignant story of resilience against the conventions of society and the exploitation of farm workers. The popular film in China, stirred controversy with its depictions of rural life. Two weeks after opening, it quickly disappeared, without warning, from theaters and streaming services. And, although it has never been officially confirmed that the film was banned, it remains impossible to see in Li's home country today. Set in 2010 in the small, rural village in Gaotai, two lonely, middle-aged people — Cao, a timid woman suffering from chronic illness and a disability, and Ma, an unassuming farmer with little to his name — are pushed into an arranged marriage by their respective families. Cast aside as burdens, Cao and Ma's relationship is tepid at first but warms as the two spend their days fixing up an abandoned house on their small patch of land. Invigorated by a shared purpose and the all-consuming nature of farm work by a shared purpose and the all-consuming nature of farm work, the couple's bond grows. As their livelihood begins disappearing, the couple attempts to build a new life together with continued patience and determination toward their home and one another. In the face of much adversity, an unexpected bond begins to blossom, as both Ma and Cao, uniting with Earth's cycles, create a haven for themselves in which they can thrive.

BEFORE NOW & THEN (DVD) Film Movement

Set amid the political violence of late-1960s Indonesia, Kamila Andini's intoxicating film *Before Now & Then* follows Nana, the beautiful wife of a wealthy plantation owner whose inner life remains with her deceased first husband, murdered in the civil war a decade prior. A survivor, Nana values her safety and material comforts, but carries out a haunted existence, dreaming of her lost love. Forced to confront her husband's blatant infidelity, Nana makes an unusual connection with his younger mistress, Ino. The two women, sharing their secrets and desires, discover a newfound freedom and intimacy withheld from them both by the strictures of patriarchal society.

STELLA MARIS (1918) (Blu-ray) VCI Ent.

Stella Maris was a first for Mary Pickford as well as a major advancement in filmmaking. She plays dual roles in a film that is very different from anything she has done before. It tells the story of two, polar opposite young women: "a figure of wondrous beauty," the rich, but crippled Stella Maris and Unity Blake, "another victim of cruel fate, deformed, but equally beautiful of soul." Pickford's performance elevated the critics' appreciation of her and the audiences flocked to see her in what turned out to be a huge, commercial success.

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

THIS ON-GOING ROAD WORK MESS MUST BE FIXED

Over the past six months or so, it seems like police detail at work sites have gone the way of dinosaurs. You hardly ever see one anymore and often wonder why. Several times, I have seen members of a construction crew directing traffic around their trucks and equipment. So far, no reports of accidents or anything. I'm thinking the next time that the police contract comes up again, police detail provisions could be up for debate by City Hall during labor negotiations. The whole purpose behind the details is public safety but without accidents or police details, I could see the city fighting to exclude police details going forward in the next contract, how about you?

The most recent example of the dangers of utility/construction crews working without police details happened on Thursday, November 30th. Workers and their trucks were causing a horrible traffic mess under the overhead highway at Bremen and Porter Streets in an East Boston, which also caused another mess on Chelsea Street. I was caught up in this traffic jam around 5:45 p.m. When I finally arrived home, I found out that the worksite had been causing traffic issues for many hours that day. When you ask the question why, you never get a straight answer from anybody. Why is that?

I thought the reason that police details exist is to increase public safety. However, if too many details go unfilled, sooner or later that will not bode well for police details at all. If the Boston Police Patrolman's Association (BPPA) doesn't make sure all police details are filled, why have details to begin with in the first place?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO KEN MASON OF REVERE



Pam Anderson congratulating Ken Mason on his 97th birthday

(Photo by Sal Giarratani)

Recently I met up with Ken Mason of Revere who joined the military during WWII. Mason served with the U.S. Army Air Corp and in 1947, the Army Air Corp was incorporated into the then-newest branch of the military, the United States Air Force. On December 4th, he turned 97 years old. Here in the photo is Pam Anderson congratulating Ken on his birthday.

CHEERS TO A TRUE BOSTONIAN

The City of Boston recently gave cheers to owner of Cheers and Hampshire House Tom Kershaw on November 29th to mark his 55th year in business. Hampshire House is also home to the beloved Bull & Finch Pub, which gained fame

when it became the inspiration for the hit TV show *Cheers* in 1981.

QUOTE TO NOTE
"When you mix rains and turds, you've still got turds."
— Charlie Munger - who recently passed away on November 28th at 99 years old

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES
On November 29th, we had several famous peoples' birthdays. Actress Diane Ladd (88). What about Chuck Mangione (83). Then there's Felix Cavaliere from the Rascals. He just turned 81. The day before, November 28th, Berry Gordy, Jr., turned 94. Without him, there would have been no Motown. I can't even imagine a world without Motown music.

THIS LADY FOUND A REAL RABBIT HOLE

An 83-year-old lady was helping her daughter move when she stepped on rotten floorboards in a century-old South Carolina home and fell to her death down a hidden well shaft the owner didn't know about. This secret well shaft was 48-foot deep. It took rescuers four hours to get her lifeless body out.

INCOMING COMMENTS FROM YOU

Hi Sal,
Hope you had a good Thanksgiving. I'm responding to your article on 11/17 about signs being covered up in Concord. This is a horrible idea. This is erasing our history. More cancel culture. This is the goal of Communism — in China, there is no past!

Did you see where Mayor Wu supports Universal Basic Income—roughly 115,000 people in Boston live in poverty and the government would give them \$633 a month? (you can look up the article in *Commonwealth Beacon* November 20, 2023 just google the mayor who supports Universal Basic Income). Where do they think this money comes from? People who work paying

for people not to work — a hearing happened at City Hall on November 27th about this.

Keep up the great work Sal.
Sincerely,
Harry Johnston

Dear Sal,

I always enjoy reading your announcements and your particular brand of humor in the "Talk of Many Things" column. In reference to the article about signs and plaques being covered up, it seems to me that there must have been a valid, patriotic sentiment that the plaque was originally meant to convey. That being said, the present generation, hundreds of years later, is reaching out for love, life, and happiness, and perhaps cannot find that satisfaction in a lifeless, stone plaque.

My suggestion is that the present generation set a good example in their neighborhood, and, if practical, erect a modern, more appropriate plaque that reflects their own sentiments.

Peter Gillen Colwell
East Boston, MA

GAS PUMP PRICES HIGH AND LOW

If you drive around the City of Quincy, gas prices are pretty good. I got \$20 worth for \$3.23 per gallon. Other nearby stations are selling it for \$3.29. Good prices, huh? In JP, Roslindale, and West Roxbury, prices go from \$3.11, \$3.25, and \$3.29. However, East Boston? Cheapest gas \$3.59, \$3.69. Highest prices in East Boston, \$4.10 and \$4.19. I think it is the highest in the city.

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