

## New On Video & DVD

**Observe and Report** In this deadpan comic send-up/tribute to the psychotic male loner of American cinema (à la Taxi Driver, Dirty Harry, Death Wish, etc., security guard Ronnie Barnhardt (Seth Rogen) is determined to keep the mall safe, whether he's running down skaters or harassing employees. A flasher is terrorizing the mall and Ronnie is determined to catch him, and no matter how misguided Ronnie's efforts, the swelling rock-&-roll soundtrack is with him all the way, underscoring his triumphs and his tragedies with fist-pounding anthems and tear-wrenching ballads by Queen, the Yardbirds, and the Band. Writer-director Jody Hill delivers on the promise he showed with The Foot Fist Way, taking the same sort of clueless, fearless protagonist and going even deeper into the darkness. Rogen projects a surprising amount of unstoppable force as the delusional, compulsive, bipolar Ronnie, while also displaying tenderness for his alcoholic mother (Celia Weston) and a genuine desire to protect the perfume-counter girl (Anna Faris) he loves. Even with such stiff competition, Michael Peña manages to steal almost every scene he's in as a lisping, sycophantic co-worker. Ray Liotta plays a "real" detective, and Hill regular Danny McBride shows up in various amusing cameos. *Warner*

**Next Day Air** Imagine an average, 30-something man with a collection of DVDs representing his favorite films of the 1990s, the movies he watched a hundred times and endlessly entertained his friends by periodically spouting random lines from--Pulp Fiction, Dazed And Confused, Friday, The Usual Suspects, Belly, and Trainspotting. If, one enchanted night, those films got together and practiced the art of romance, their spawn would look a lot like Next Day Air. The plot revolves around a misdelivered package of drugs, and the resultant scramble by one side to retrieve the product, as the other side tries to unload it before the mistake is realized. All the stylistic flourishes of the Tarantino brood are here: the confused opening scene that will later be repeated with context; the fractured chronology of the story; the flashbacks featuring overexposed, vibrant colors; the use of subtitles to interpret drug code; the sadistic removal of an important body part with a big blade; and the apocalyptic hail of bullets as an exclamation point. There is a dazzling air of enthusiastic confusion blowing throughout the film as it tries to decide whether it is a comedy or a gangster film. But rather than simply alternating scenes of laughter with scenes of violence, director Benny Boom mixes these two volatile ingredients, so that moments of high tension are suddenly diffused as the characters themselves seem to realize the absurd gravity of the situation and begin to cower. At other times, playful exchanges inexorably elevate into heated conflicts so subtly that no one can quite remember where the shift occurred. Mos Def has a hilarious turn as a mumbling, thieving delivery man in this film where everybody has a hustle, from the drug kingpins to the chump managing the storage shed where they hide their loot. *Summit*

**Fringe Season One** Teleportation. Mind control. Invisibility. Astral projection. Mutation. Reanimation. Phenomena that exist on the Fringe of science unleash their strange powers in this thrilling series, co-created by J.J. Abrams (Lost, Alias), combining the grit of the police procedural with the excitement of the unknown. The story revolves around three unlikely colleagues – a beautiful young FBI agent, a brilliant scientist who's spent the last 17 years in a mental institution and the scientist's sardonic son – who investigate a series of bizarre deaths and disasters known as "the pattern." Someone is using our world as an experimental lab. And all clues lead to Massive Dynamic, a shadowy global corporation that may be more powerful than any nation. *Warner*

**Superman Batman Public Enemies** Lex Luthor has been elected president of the United States, and he's using an earthbound kryptonite asteroid as grounds for declaring a billion-dollar bounty on the heads of Superman and Batman. Now, the two heroes must team up to save both the planet and their own necks. They can't do it on their own, but finding help won't be easy because every hero and villain on the planet is looking to collect that juicy bounty. Upon learning that Luthor's criminal ambition reaches well beyond the borders of North America, Superman and Batman realize that clearing their good names may be the least of their worries. *Warner*