

# New On Video & DVD

***Balls of Fury*** It's ping-pong played to the death in this balls-out comedy: Dan Fogler stars as pong child prodigy and Def Leppard-devotee Randy Daytona, whose defeat at the hands of a hissy East German (Thomas Lennon) during the 1988 Olympics forced him leave the world of ping-pong competition in disgrace. Randy's life is a shambles until he gets recruited by CIA agent (Barry Lopez) to infiltrate an Enter The Dragon-style ping-pong tournament (to the death), run by an evil triad leader (Christopher Walken). First Randy needs to get back in shape; enter James Hong as the blind ping-pong master Wang and Maggie Q as his sexy, kung fu-fighting niece. While *FURY* is a consistently funny comedy it also manages to slily infuse some intelligence and compassion into its steady stream of genre spoofery and lowbrow crotch gags (similar in that sense to Mel Brooks' *Blazing Saddles*). Fogler has an engagingly scruffy underdog-style warmth and seems to really connect with the older pros like Walken and Hong; there's the sense everyone had a good time making this film, which carries over to the audience. Director Robert Ben Garant knows when to speed up the action and when to give his actors room to stretch out; the result is a generous spirit where all the cast is allowed to grab their share of the laughs. There's also some awesome Def Leopard tunes on the soundtrack. *Universal*

***Eastern Promises*** David Cronenberg and Viggo Mortensen follow up 2005's *A History Of Violence* with another joint effort in *Eastern Promises*. The film takes place in rainswept London, with Mortensen effortlessly inhabiting the role of a chauffeur (named Nikolai) for the Russian Mafia. The stoic Nikolai works for restaurant owner and powerful Mafia kingpin Semyon (Armin Mueller-Stahl) and his out-of-control son Kirill (Vincent Cassel). Cronenberg adds a few generous splashes of blood-red to his otherwise deeply grey cinematic palette as the movie begins, then allows his central storyline to unfold. Midwife Anna (Naomi Watts) comes crashing into Nikolai's life after discovering the diary of a young Russian woman who dies while giving birth, and her dealings with Semyon, and a subsequent translation of the diary, provide some horrific discoveries. Anna soon finds herself floundering in an alien world full of brutal and bloody violence, and it's not long before her own life hangs perilously in the balance. Fans of *A History Of Violence* will find much to enjoy here, as will long-standing Cronenberg fans who have stuck with the director since his early low-budget horror days. Plenty of themes, ideas, and obsessions that have run right through the director's body of work are present, and he appears to have found a very effective muse in Mortensen. The chief talking points of the film will almost certainly revolve around the graphic killings and fight sequences, but *Eastern Promises* is a weighty piece of work that will undoubtedly attract fans of intelligent, well-crafted thrillers. *Universal*

***The Kingdom*** Actor, writer, and director Peter Berg delivers a fearless, action-packed political thriller with *The Kingdom*. Shot in the Middle East with unsettling immediacy, the hand-held cameras put viewers right inside the action, while the tension between American FBI agents and their Saudi counterparts maintains an interesting uncertainty about who's "right" and who's "wrong." The bad guys, however, are unmistakable: the film opens with a brutal terrorist attack on an oil company compound in Saudi Arabia, where a visiting FBI agent is killed. Back home in Washington, fellow agents Ronald Fleury and Janet Mayes, want revenge, and will do whatever it takes to gain access to the investigation. Fleury all but blackmails a Saudi prince to get clearance against the wishes of a timorous attorney general, and flies overnight to the scene of the crime. Accompanying him are the no-nonsense forensics expert Mayes, Southern-fried bomb authority Grant Sykes, and Jewish smart aleck Adam Leavitt. Once there, they encounter the resistance of a Saudi government more interested in getting the Americans safely out of the country and avoiding conflict, rather than in solving the crime. They are assigned a smarmy handler with a weak stomach to make sure they stay out of trouble. The team must navigate a maze of bureaucracy to begin collecting evidence, but they have an unlikely ally in their Saudi escort, Colonel Faris Al Ghazi, a scrupulous and intelligent officer whom Fleury befriends. Soon enough, procedure and protocol give way to car chases and explosive fire fights, and the current bleak political climate of extremism and violence is portrayed in a stark light with no easy answers. *Universal*

***American Pie Beta House*** Animal House meets American Pie in this hilarious continuation of the hit series. Known as one of the most notorious fraternities on campus, the Beta House is opening its doors to a whole new crop of pledges that includes Dwight Stifler (of the famed Stifler clan), and his cousin Erik. Full of insane parties and even wilder girls, the two freshman get in all sorts of trouble in this raunchy comedy that includes the great Eugene Levy, reprising his role as Jim's dad. *Universal*

***The Heartbreak Kid*** The Farrelly Brothers add their trademark bounty of bodily functions to this remake of Elaine May's 1972 comedy, *The Heartbreak Kid*. This time around Ben Stiller plays Eddie Cantrow, a 40-year-old bachelor who is tired of having his foulmouthed father (Jerry Stiller) and henpecked friend (Rob Corddry) give him a hard time for not being married. So when he meets the seemingly perfect Lila (Malin Ackerman), he decides to marry her--despite knowing her for only six weeks. On their honeymoon in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, he realizes his mistake when Lila reveals her true colors, which turn out to be quite ugly. While Lila recovers from a sunburn, Eddie meets fellow vacationer Miranda (Michelle Monaghan) and falls in love. He must break the news to both women before they find out the truth. After the more standard romantic comedy of *Fever Pitch*, Bobby and Peter Farrelly are back to the gross-out comedy that made them famous in films such as *There's Something About Mary*. This is the first time they've re-teamed with Stiller since that landmark film, and it proves a far better marriage than Eddie and Lila's. *Paramount*

***Rawhide Volume 2 Second Season*** Before he became a fixture in the spaghetti Western genre, iconic actor Clint Eastwood shot to fame in the 1950s and '60s television series *Rawhide*. Considered one of the best TV Westerns of all time, the classic series followed the episodic adventures of a band of rovers hired to drive cattle through the lawless terrain of the 1870s Wild West while encountering both natural and manmade dangers like anthrax and cattle rustlers. Eastwood starred as rover Rowdy Yates, the straight-arrow assistant to a tough-as-nails trail boss, Gil Favor (Eric Fleming), who also presided over trail hands Mushy (James Murdock), Quince (Steve Raines), Nolan (Sheb Wooley), and Wishbone (Paul Brinegar). This collection presents the second half of the cult-favorite series' second season. Disc 1 includes the following episodes: "Incident at Tinker's Dam," "Incident of the Night Horse," "Incident of the Sharpshooter" and "Incident of the Dust Flower." Additional Actors: Monte Blue, Regis Toomey, Anthony Dexter, Judy Nugent, George Wallace, Norman Leavitt, Fred Lerner, Jock Mahoney, Kenne Duncan. Disc 2 includes the following episodes: "Incident at Sulphur Creek," "Incident of the Champagne Bottles," "Incident of the Stargazer" and "Incident of the Dancing Death." Additional Actors: Fern Barry, Doreen Lang, Tom Drake, Frances Bavier, Ross Ford, Jan Shepard, Joseph Vitale, Patricia Barry, Hugh Marlowe, Lane Bradford, Buddy Ebsen, Tom Fadden, Ted DeCorsia, Mabel Albertson, Anthony Caruso, Kipp Hamilton. Disc 3 includes the following episodes: "Incident of the Arana Sacar," "Incident of the One Hundred Amulets," "Incident of the Deserter" and "Incident of the Murder Steer." Additional Actors: Cloris Leachman, Hal Baylor, Russell Arms, Argentina Brunetti, Richard Reeves, Whit Bissell, Sheila Bromley, Michael Granger, James Franciscus, Stephen Joyce, Paul Lukather. Disc 4 includes the following episodes: "Incident of the Music Maker," "Incident of the Silver Web," "Incident of the Last Chance" and "Incident in the Garden of Eden." Additional Actors: Werner Klemperer, Charles Maxwell, Don Haggerty, Paul Langton, Kathryn Card, Bob Hopkins, Hank Patterson, Debra Paget, Robert Coote, Adrienne Marden. *Paramount*

***Dance Workout For Dummies*** Two left feet are not a problem with this fun and easy-to-follow dance workout from respected fitness trainer Michelle LeMay, who caters her fat-burning regimen to dance and workout beginners. In two 20-minute routines, LeMay goes easy on the intricacy of her dance moves but goes heavy on the fun. The rump-shaking workout is meant to boost overall energy while building fitness and burning calories. *Anchor Bay*

***Love's Unending Legacy*** This entry in the frontier saga about the spirited LaHaye family finds widow Missie (Erin Cottrell) moving back to her father's ranch with her son (Brett Coker) when she's forced to give up her land. On a whim, she adopts a teenage orphan (Holliston Coleman) but has trouble bonding with the girl -- who's harboring a secret. Meanwhile, Missie begins to have feelings for the town sheriff, Zach Tyler (Victor Browne). *Fox*

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**Gunsmoke Second Season Vol. 1** James Arness vaulted into the annals of television history with his iconic portrayal of U.S. Marshal Matt Dillon in the long-running television Western GUNSMOKE. Armed with a quick draw and an even quicker wit, the principled and intelligent Marshal Dillon brought peace and righteousness to the lawless frontier of 1800s Dodge City with the help of his trusted deputy, Chester Goode (Dennis Weaver), his friend Doc Adams (Milburn Stone), and saloon keeper Miss Kitty (Amanda Blake). This collection presents the first volume of the series' second season. Disc 1 includes the following episodes: "Cow Doctor," "Brush at Eklader," "Custer," "The Roundup," "Young Man With a Gun," "Indian White" and "How to Cure a Friend." Additional Actors: Robert H. Harris, Dorothy Adams, Tommy Kirk, Paul Lambert, Alfred Linder, Dennis Cross, Keith Thibodeaux, Brian G. Hutton, John Dierkes, Jacques Aubuchon, Mason Curry, Jack Diamond, Sidney Clute, Stanley Adams, Marian Seldes, Simon Oakland, Andrew Duggan. Disc 2 includes the following episodes: "Legal Revenge," "The Mistake," "Greater Love," "No Indians," "Spring Term," "Poor Pearl" and "Cholera." Additional Actors: Cloris Leachman, Mike Connors, Gene O'Donnell, Amzie Strickland, Ray Bennett, Mickey Simpson, Herbert Rudley, Jack Kruschen, Paul Newlan, Ross Ford, Constance Ford, John Hamilton, Stuart Whitman, Peg Hillias, Bartlett Robinson. Disc 3 includes the following episodes: "Pucket's New Year," "The Cover-up," "Sins of the Father," "Kick Me," "Executioner" and "Gone Straight." Additional Actors: Richard Deacon, Edgar Stehli, Grant Withers, Rocky Shahan, Vivi Janiss, Theodore Marcuse, Angie Dickinson, Paul Wexler, Paul Lambert, Robert H. Harris, Robert Keys, Carl Betz, Joe De Santis, Tige Andrews, John Dierkes, Ward Wood.

*Paramount*

**Jackass 2.5** Johnny Knoxville, Steve-O and the entire Jackass crew return with even more inappropriate and reckless stunts, pranks and mischief in this film that combines extra scenes from Jackass 2 with behind-the-scenes footage and exclusive interviews. Confronting dangerous animals such as alligators and snakes, fighting one another, and embarrassing Bam's dad are just a few of the crazy high jinks in store. *Paramount*

**Halloween** Directed by Rob Zombie, this reimagining of the original Halloween horror flick finds Michael Myers (Tyler Mane) erroneously released from the mental institution where he's been committed since he was 10 years old. Immediately returning to Haddonfield, Myers looks for his little sister, Laurie Strode (Scout Taylor-Compton) and has no qualms about killing anyone who crosses his path. Malcolm McDowell co-stars as Dr. Sam Loomis. *Genius*

**Death Sentence** "Saw" director James Wan's gripping thriller stars Kevin Bacon as an insurance company vice president whose ideal life is shattered when he witnesses his son's murder. Learning that the killer will only get a few years in prison, Bacon refuses to identify him. Taking matters into his own hands, he becomes consumed with vengeance. But how far will he go to protect his family? With Kelly Preston, Aisha Tyler and John Goodman. Includes both the theatrical and unrated versions. **Fox Survivor Series 2007** One of the longest-running pay-per-view events in WWE history, the Survivor Series is often called the "all-star game" of wrestling. What returning WWE superstar makes his presence felt in the "Hell in a Cell" match between the Undertaker and world heavyweight champ Batista? Can Shawn Michaels end WWE champ Randy Orton's "one-man dynasty"? Who'll win the Survivor Series Elimination Match, as Triple H, Jeff Hardy, Rey Mysterio, and Kane take on Umaga, Big Daddy V, Mr. Kennedy, MVP, and Finlay? And does Hornswoggle stand a chance against the Great Khali? *Genius/WWE*

**The Best of Raw 15th Anniversary** Highlights from 15 years of body slamming, pile driving, super flying and trash talking are assembled in this raucous celebration of the venerable WWE program "Monday Night Raw." Culled from more than 700 broadcasts of the hit show, the collection relives the feuds and betrayals that are pro wrestling at its greatest, as well as the crazy antics of series creator and ringleader Vince McMahon. Disc 1 includes the following chapters: "First RAW," "Mr. Perfect vs. Ric Flair," "Parking Lot Brawl," "Razor Ramon vs. The Kid," "Todd Grisham: A Momentous Night," "Shawn Michaels vs. Marty Jannetty," "Gorilla Monsoon Fires Bobby Heenan," "Bret Hart vs. 1-2-3 Kid," "The Search for the Undertaker" and many more. Disc 2 includes the following chapters: "Tyson and Austin!," "Dumpster Diving," "Stone Cold vs. Vince McMahon," "DX Invades WCW," "DX Nation," "Zamboni," "The Debut of Mr. Socko," "McMahon's Cement Corvette," "Bang," "Mankind Wins the WWE Championship," "Stone Cold Beer Truck," "Monster Truck vs. Town Car" and many more. Disc 3 includes the following chapters: "The Rock' Concert," "Kane Unmasks," "Musical Chairs with Eugene," "Evolution Turns on Randy Orton," "Are You Ready for Some Wrestling?," "Batista Turns on Triple H," "Shelton Benjamin vs. Shawn Michaels," "Todd Grisham: RAW's Huge Gain," "A Stone Cold Homecoming" and many more. *Genius/WWE*

**He Was A Quiet Man** Cubicle worker Bob (Christian Slater) is a resentful outsider who's started carrying a gun in case he gets up the courage to use it on some of his co-workers. But when one of those co-workers starts shooting, Bob guns him down and becomes an inadvertent hero. Bob's newfound popularity makes him uncomfortable, even as he grows closer to Vanessa (Elisha Cuthbert), who was badly wounded in the shooting. William H. Macy co-stars in this quirky drama. *Anchor Bay*

**Friday Night Heroes Volume 1** See where some of today's greatest football superstars got their start. Before playing high-profile football matches every Sunday, some of the biggest names on the NFL honed their skills on their high school teams. Hosted by Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb, **Friday Night Phenoms - Vol. 1** chronicles the sporting beginnings of legendary footballers such as Matt Leinart, Davin Hester, Vince Young, LaDanian Tomlinson, Tom Brady, Shawn Alexander, and Reggie Bush. *Genius*

**The Riches Season 1** Minnie Driver and Eddie Izzard star in this well-received FX series based on the concept of what happens when a family of traveling con-artists finds its way into a wealthy suburban community, fooling everyone around them into thinking they belong while trying to convince themselves of the same thing. Driver plays Dahlia Malloy, a wife and mother who at the start of the series has just been released from prison for a crime her husband, conman Wayne (Izzard) committed. Understandably bitter, Dahlia self-medicates and steals to protect her children, ending up on the run from a scary crew of extended family. When a crazy coincidence gives Wayne and Dahlia the keys to a new life and a new identity, they seize it, mistakenly figuring life in the suburbs will be a piece of cake. Like a mixture of *Desperate Housewives*, *Weeds*, and *Coen-brothers comedy*, *The Riches* has the potential for wide appeal. This set contains all 13 episodes from the show's premiere season, including the pilot. Disc 1 includes the following episodes: "Pilot," "Believe the Lie" and "Operation Education." Additional Actors: Stephen Sowan, Nichole Hiltz, Nate Mooney, Nancy Daly, Red West, Kaitlin Olson, John Sanderford. Disc 2 includes the following episodes: "Been There, Done That!," "The Big Floss," "Reckless Gardening" and "Virgin Territory." Additional Actors: Nichole Hiltz, Stephen Sowan, Michael Trevino, Harry Karp, Deidrie Henry, Nate Mooney, John McConnell, Hans Howes. Disc 3 includes the following episodes: "X Spots the Mark," "Cinderella," "This Is Your Brain on Drugs" and "Anything Hugh Can Do, I Can Do Better." Additional Actors: Clancy Brown, Teresa Huang, Peggy Stewart, David Kelsey, Larry Cedar, Stephen Sowan, Deidrie Henry. Disc 4 includes the following episodes: "It's a Wonderful Lie" and "Waiting for Dogot." Additional Actors: Kaitlin Olson, Julie Ann Emery, Arye Gross. *Fox*

**The Stress Buster Collection Laugh Through Life** Nationally recognized stress management expert Loretta LaRoche unleashes more of her trademark humor to help put life back into perspective. Drawing on theories of cognitive science, LaRoche shows that rethinking how we think is the first step. Modern life is overwhelmed by the speed of our communications and has left us feeling that every action is a chore. Through joy and laughter, we can find a way back to a healthier pace of life. Putting it all into perspective, stress management expert Loretta LaRoche reveals how we hinder our lives by the irrational stresses we create. By learning how we employ ridiculous patterns of thinking to deal with stress, we can then move on to "the joy of living." LaRoche shows viewers how to get back on a sensible path through simple breathing exercises and exaggeration therapy, whereby one's debilitating worries are recast in a new light. *WGBH Boston*