

New On Video & DVD

Arctic Tale This heartbreaking documentary puts a face on the sad statistics of global warming--and though it's not a human face, it's the perhaps even more effective face of an adorable polar bear cub, Nanu, along with her mother, her brother, and her natural enemy, the equally heart-melting Seela the walrus. With breathtaking footage of life on the arctic tundra, the directors spin a highly emotional tale of the melting ice caps and the effect of their disappearance on every species in the ecosystem. Since the film is essentially aimed at children, the cuteness factor is off the charts, aided by the slightly grating use of sound effects, a slangy voiceover by Queen Latifah, and a kid-friendly pop/folk soundtrack. And, as in a National Geographic special, viewers learn some interesting and neutral facts about polar bears, walruses, narwhals, foxes, and other northern creatures. The narrative, however, returns repeatedly to the grim conditions that are killing off our planet's wildlife, one family at a time. The directors take pains to create a hopeful ending, with a sweet pair of life-goes-on epilogues and a closing credit sequence featuring conservation tips, but the message of the film is sobering and hits its mark with kids and adults alike. *Paramount*

Gomer Pyle Third Season Endearing but inept Marine Pvt. Gomer Pyle (Jim Nabors) continues to drive hotheaded Sgt. Carter (Frank Sutton) crazy with his antics and misadventures in this third season of the long-running classic sitcom. Gomer crashes Carter's car, claims to have seen little space-men, inadvertently recruits a fugitive bank robber and loses track of the colonel's daughter at a go-go club. Guest stars this season include Rob Reiner and Richard Bull. Disc 1 includes the following episodes: "Lies, Lies, Lies," "Crazy Legs Gomer," "Gomer, the Carrier," "Caution: Low Overhead," "Show Me the Way To Go Home" and "How To Succeed in Farming Without Really Trying." Additional Actors: Keenan Wynn, Pert Kelton, Deborah Walley, Larry Duran, Rod Lauren, Sid Melton, Mary Lansing. Disc 2 includes the following episodes: "Gomer and the Little Men From Outer Space," "The Borrowed Car," "Gomer Pyle, Super Chef," "Marry Me, Marry Me," "Cold Nose, Warm Heart" and "Follow That Car!." Additional Actors: Richard Bull, Stuart Nisbet, Emile Meyer, Victor Brandt, G.D. Spradlin, Anthony Eisley, Francine York, Alan Hewitt. Disc 3 includes the following episodes: "It Takes Two to Tangle," "Wither the Weather!," "Love's Old Sweet Song," "Gomer, the Recruiter," "The Secret Life of Gomer Pyle" and "Go Blow Your Horn." Additional Actors: Grant Sullivan, Ray Montgomery, Phil Arnold, Rob Reiner, George Tyne, Hope Summers. Disc 4 includes the following episodes: "You Bet Your Won Ton," "Sue the Pants Off 'Em," "Gomer and the Card Sharks," "To Re-Enlist or Not To Re-Enlist," "Lou-Ann Poovie Sings Again" and "Gomer, the Welsh Rarebit Fiend." Additional Actors: James Hong, Jay Novello, Holly Irving, Jesslyn Fax, Elizabeth MacRae, Ronnie Schell, Richard Bull. Disc 5 includes the following episodes: "Sing a Song of Papa," "Where There's a Will," "Lost -- The Colonel's Daughter," "The Crow Ganef," "One of Our Shells is Missing" and "Lou-Ann Poovie Sings No More." Additional Actors: Anthony Caruso, Dort Clark, Rob Reiner, Elizabeth MacRae. *Paramount*

Frazier 10th Season Seattle's favorite radio shrink, Frasier Crane (Kelsey Grammer), returns for a 10th season of the smart, popular and award-winning sitcom, which sees Niles and Daphne getting married (three times!) and Frasier duking it out with love interest Julia. Later, Frasier and Niles spar over who's going to host holiday celebrations, Niles and Daphne hold a dinner party to unveil an expensive painting, and Frasier loses his cool over a parking garage fee. Disc 1 includes the following episodes: "The Ring Cycle," "Enemy at the Gate," "Proxy Prexy," "Kissing Cousin," "Tales From the Crypt" and "Star Mitzvah." Additional Actors: Millicent Martin, Saul Rubinek, Twink Caplan, Luis Guzmán, Morocco Omari, Marc Vann, Conrad Janis, Zooey Deschanel, Bradley Whitford, Tom McGowan, Dan Butler, Trevor Einhorn, Patrick Kerr, Bebe Neuwirth. Disc 2 includes the following episodes: "Bristle While You Work (Part 1)," "Rooms With a View (Part 2)," "Don't Go Breaking My Heart (Part 3)," "We Two Kings," "Door Jam" and "The Harassed." Additional Actors: Ana Gasteyer, Edward Hibbert, Judith Scott, Millicent Martin, Dean Cain, James Oliver, Monica McSwain, Sarah Shahi, Hal Sparks, Mike Judge, Dan Butler, Tom McGowan. Disc 3 includes the following episodes: "Lilith Needs a Favor," "Daphne Does Dinner," "Trophy Girlfriend," "Fraternal Schwinn's," "Kenny on the Couch" and "Roe to Pardition." Additional Actors: Bebe Neuwirth, Brent Spiner, Millicent Martin, Christopher Lawford, Nana Visitor, Scotch Ellis Loring, Bob Hoskins, Felicity Huffman, Jeanne Tripplehorn, Alan Cumming, Laura Linney. Disc 4 includes the following episodes: "Some Assembly Required," "Farewell, Nervosa," "The Devil and Dr. Phil," "Fathers and Sons," "Analyzed Kiss" and "A New Position for Roz." Additional Actors: Jordan Lund, Dale Dickey, Matt Besser, Alex Borstein, Elvis Costello, John Hannah, Felicity Huffman, Amy Hill, Harriet Sansom Harris, Dr. Phil McGraw, Jack Axelrod, David Ogden Stiers, Dan Gerrity. *Paramount*

The Mob Squad Season 1 Vol. 1 Three young outcasts -- a flower child runaway named Julie (Peggy Lipton), a long-haired troublemaker named Pete (Michael Cole) and an inner-city thug named Linc (Clarence Williams III) -- are recruited by the police to infiltrate the counterculture crime world by forming a covert investigative unit. An instant hit in its day, this hip reimagining of the television cop drama became an iconic classic of the late 1960s and early '70s. Disc 1 includes the following episodes: "The Teeth of the Barracuda," "Bad Man on Campus" and "My, What a Pretty Bus." Additional Actors: Robert DoQui, Richard Pryor, Noam Pitlik, Clive Clerk, Judy Pace, Booker Bradshaw, Val Avery, Pepper Martin, Byron Morrow. Disc 2 includes the following episodes: "When Smitty Comes Marching Home," "You Can't Tell the Players Without a Programmer," "A Time to Love, a Time to Cry" and "Find Tara Chapman!" Additional Actors: Louis Gossett Jr., Edward Faulkner, Valerie Allen, Byron Foulger, Linda Marsh, Mark Goddard, Robert Lansing, Rex Holman, Della Reese, Yvonne Craig, John Van Dreelen. Disc 3 includes the following episodes: "The Price of Terror," "A Quiet Weekend in the Country" and "Love." Additional Actors: James Best, Gail Kobe, Harry Bosch, William Phipps, Bruce Glover, Ahna Capri, Irene Hervey, Dub Taylor, Corey Fischer, Nina Foch, Isabel Sanford. Disc 4 includes the following episodes: "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Starlet," "The Guru" and "The Sunday Drivers." Additional Actors: Joan Van Ark, Alan Oppenheimer, Norman Grabowski, Dabney Coleman, Max Julien, Barry Williams, Paul Carr, Chick Chandler, Quentin Dean. *Paramount*

Tom & Jerry Tales There's never a dull moment for Tom and Jerry in this 15-episode collection of the updated cartoon classic as the dynamic cat-and-mouse duo spars in space, gets chased by an Egyptian mummy and makes friends with dinosaurs. Stories include "Fraidy Cat Scat," "Martian Mice," "Dino-Sores," "Tomcat Superstar," "Freaky Tiki," "Beefcake Tom," "The Cat Nebula," "Spaced-Out Cat" and "Bats What I Like About the South." *Warner*

The V Word Two nerdy video gamers, curious about seeing death face-to-face, break into a funeral home in this episode of Showtime's Masters Of Horror series. But a terrifying encounter with a blood-sucking creature (Michael Ironside, Scanners), forces them to make a difficult choice between life and death. An interesting spin on the vampire mythos, *The V Word* was directed by Ernest Dickerson, a longtime cinematographer of Spike Lee, and respected film (*Juice*) and TV (*The Wire*) director in his own right. *Anchor Bay*

The Evil Dead Ultimate Edition Director Sam Raimi's first film has achieved legendary status since its 1982 release, *The Evil Dead* is arguably the best of the three. It is the story of five college-age friends who travel to a cabin in rural Tennessee where the stumble upon the *Book of the Dead*, an ancient tome bound in human flesh and inked in blood. After unwittingly awakening the unspeakable terror told of in the book, each of the friends is transformed into the evil dead, one by one, except for Ash (Bruce Campbell). So, Ash is left with no other way to survive than to dismember the living corpses of his sister, girlfriend, and two of his friends. Sam Raimi uses impressively freaky special effects to make this low-budget horror classic. *Anchor Bay*

The Last Man On Earth Based on Richard Matheson's SF thriller *I Am Legend*, *The Last Man On Earth* is about a man who survives a global plague only to be stalked nightly by zombielike victims who call out his name. Vincent Price stars as Robert Morgan, a scientist who tried desperately to come up with a cure for an airborne virus that was killing people around the globe. Although he could not develop a serum in time to save his family, he himself seems to be immune from the disease. Thus, he is left to wander the streets by day, staking zombies, then barricading himself in his house each night as the zombies try to break in and kill him. Price is excellent in the role, going about his horrible business as if it were just another day: waking up and eating breakfast, putting on a suit, calmly staking the zombies, making dinner, listening to records at night. But when he suddenly sees what looks like another living soul out in the daylight, his world is suddenly turned inside out. *Fox*

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Rocky The Complete Saga: Rocky Director John G. Avildsen's Rocky is the stand-up-and-cheer saga of Rocky Balboa (Sylvester Stallone), an underdog boxer who gets his million-to-one shot at love, self-respect, and the world heavyweight title. Rocky is a down-on-his-luck Philadelphia southpaw who works at a meat-packing factory while fighting at a local club. He's given the chance of a lifetime when the world heavyweight champion, Apollo Creed (Carl Weathers), chooses him as an unlikely opponent in his championship bicentennial fight. What was originally planned as a publicity stunt becomes a chance for Rocky to prove himself as a prizefighter while training with his cantankerous manager, Mickey (Burgess Meredith), to rise to the challenge. Thrilling scenes of Rocky's arduous training, including his unforgettable run up the Philadelphia Art Museum steps, are interspersed with a sweet and touching love story between the fighter and his best friend's shy sister, Adrian (Talia Shire). With the love of Adrian on his side, Rocky struggles to overcome the odds, fighting with all his heart in the glorious and brutal finale. Shot with gritty realism on the mean streets of Philadelphia, Rocky introduced a new American cinematic hero, spurred on by rollicking action sequences and a rousing soundtrack. A triumph for star and screenwriter Stallone, who himself came from nowhere to reach the top, Rocky is crowd-pleasing entertainment at its finest. **Rocky II** After Rocky Balboa (Sylvester Stallone) goes the distance with heavyweight champ Apollo Creed (Carl Weathers), boxing fans clamor for a rematch. But Rocky's massive injuries lead him to announce his retirement so he can settle down with Adrian (Talia Shire). Despite the fresh start, he soon realizes that he can't escape his true calling. The ring beckons once more, and the "Italian Stallion" must prepare for the fight of his life. **Rocky III** The third chapter of the life of Rocky Balboa finds Rocky's lifestyle of wealth and idleness suddenly shaken when a powerful fighter challenges him to a bout. After soundly losing, the previously overconfident champ begins training for a rematch. Sylvester Stallone once again directs himself in the film, with Talia Shire by his side. Mr. T makes an excellent villain in this film as the loud and decisive Clubber Lang, who is trying to prevent Rocky from getting the "eye of the tiger." **Rocky IV** Sly Stallone heads into the ring for the fourth time in this heart-pounding sports drama. A new challenger steps forward to take on Rocky's world heavyweight title: Drago (Dolph Lundgren), a gargantuan fighter from the Soviet Union. After Drago kills Apollo Creed (Carl Weathers) in an exhibition match, Rocky sets out to avenge his friend by agreeing to a globally-televised match in the heart of Moscow. Expect a heart-pounding fight to the finish. **Rocky V** times are different for boxing champion Rocky Balboa (Sylvester Stallone). A lifetime of taking shots has terminated his career, and a crooked accountant has left him bankrupt. In this final chapter of the Rocky series, the Balboa family is forced to return to their gritty beginnings in the old neighborhood, attempting to start their lives anew. Life in Philadelphia means a lot of adjustment for the once-wealthy Balboa family--Adrian (Talia Shire) has to return to her job at the pet store, Rocky Jr. (Sage Stallone) struggles to endure a punishingly tough high school, and Rocky is forced to face that his championship career is finally over. Soon, though, Rocky returns to what he knows best--boxing. He becomes a manager for Tommy Gunn (Tommy Morrison), an up-and-coming boxer, teaching him all of the tricks of the trade. Inspired by the memory of his own trainer, Mickey (Burgess Meredith), Rocky is able to find glory in training. However, Tommy leaves his tutelage for George W. Duke (Richard Gant), a flashy Don King-like promoter, and Rocky's rage and sense of betrayal inspire him to fight one final grudge match. Young Tommy and Rocky duke it out in a bloody streetfight that recalls the brutal glory and hard-knocks finale of the original Rocky. **Rocky Balboa** the sixth installment of the long-running film franchise, should amount to nothing more than a lame punch line to a Tonight Show monologue joke. However, just as his longtime corner man Paulie describes the Italian Stallion himself, this movie is all heart. Thirty years after Sylvester Stallone first introduced the underdog backroom brawler from Philadelphia in the Oscar-winning Rocky, Rocky Balboa returns for one last dance. Speculation as to whether Balboa, in his prime, would have been able to defeat lackluster champ Mason "The Line" Dixon spurs Dixon's management to set up an exhibition fight between the two. That Balboa is in his 50s in the film and wouldn't be sanctioned to fight anyone, let alone a man 30 years his junior and in the prime of life, must be left up to the viewer's ability to suspend disbelief. To its credit, however, the movie addresses at every turn the insanity of a man approaching 60 getting back into a boxing ring, and Balboa's impassioned explanation of his motivations is just believable enough to give all other improbabilities a free pass. Though it may sound like faint praise, this is the best Rocky movie since the original. It's very much a love letter to Philadelphia, and Stallone, who wrote and directed the movie, shoots everything with an unflinching eye that humanizes the mean streets of the City of Brotherly Love and evokes the gritty dignity of the original film. And while Burt Young's cantankerous Paulie and Tony Burton's Duke both return, Talia Shire, sadly, does not reprise her role as the beloved Adrian. It's revealed early in the film that Adrian has died of cancer, and it's the pain of that tragedy that ultimately fuels Rocky. Boxing as a metaphor for life is certainly nothing new, but Stallone makes a legitimate contribution to the tradition with Rocky Balboa. Life hits harder than any man can, and one's ability to keep getting up until the final bell rings is the true measure of self. Corny? Perhaps. But when Bill Conti's legendary score kicks in and Rocky starts pounding the heavy bag, the metaphor feels truly profound. *MGM*

Bob Hope Collection: The Road to Hong Kong In one of many road movies from Bing Crosby and Bob Hope, Harry (Crosby) and Chester (Hope) travel to Tibet in search of a drug that will restore Chester's memory. Once cured, his memory becomes so good that he accidentally memorizes a secret formula for space navigation. The two meet a beautiful spy (Joan Collins) and get sidetracked to another planet! Dorothy Lamour, Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin are among those sharing the madcap adventure., **The Princess and the Pirate** A greedy pirate sails around the globe in pursuit of a fleeing princess. The noblewoman has left the safety of the royal court in order to be with her one true love, a lowly commoner, and the determined buccaneer sees her as another jewel to add to his impressive collection. The princess is aided in her flight by a two-bit vaudevillian she meets along the way; unfortunately, her newfound ally turns out to be both a coward and a fool. One of Hope's best comedies. Academy Award Nominations: 2, including Best Scoring of a Dramatic or Comedy Picture., **I'll Take Sweden** Widower Bob Holcomb (Bob Hope) tries to keep his teenage daughter JoJo (Tuesday Weld) from marrying the wrong guy in this romantic comedy. Hoping to break up JoJo's relationship with good-for-nothing boyfriend Kenny (Frankie Avalon), Bob takes a job in Sweden and is soon distracted by the lovely Karin (Dina Merrill). But when JoJo falls for Sweden's biggest playboy (Erik Carlsson), Bob devises a plan to get Kenny and JoJo back together. **They Got Me Covered** When a hapless reporter (Bob Hope) uncovers a Nazi spy ring operating in the nation's capital, he enlists the help of his girlfriend (Dorothy Lamour) to help him crack the story. But the hilarious mayhem he unleashes is more than he bargained for. Together, can they break the story, win back their professional credibility and escape with their lives? Directed by David Butler, this classic comedy also features Otto Preminger and Philip Ahn., **The Facts of Life** Middle-aged suburbanites Larry and Mary Gilbert (Bob Hope and Ruth Hussey) and Jack and Kitty Weaver (Don DeFore and Lucille Ball) have been friends for many years. But when circumstances keep throwing Larry and Kitty together without their spouses, the two fall in love. Now, they must decide whether to end their marriages and start a new life together. The Facts of Life received several Oscar nominations and won for Best Costume Design., **Boy, Did I Get a Wrong Number** Bob Hope stars as a real estate agent who innocently agrees to hide a bombshell movie starlet (Elke Sommer) in his country cottage, away from the prying eyes of the media. But with a nosy housekeeper (Phyllis Diller) and a loving wife (Marjorie Lord) who keeps popping in, how long until the jig is up? Directed by George Marshall, this classic farce also features Cesare Danova, Benny Baker, Kevin Burchett and Kelly Thordsen. & **Alias Jesse James** In this classic screwball comedy. Bob Hope stars as hapless life insurance salesman Milford Farnsworth, a man who unwittingly sells a policy to the notorious Wild West outlaw Jesse James (Wendell Corey). Of course, when Farnsworth tries to cancel the policy, James has more than a few tricks up his sleeve. Directed by Norman Z. McLeod, this film also features cameos by legendary Western stars Gary Cooper, Roy Rogers, Gene Autry and James Garner. *Fox*