

# New On Video & DVD

**Invasion** This slick sci-fi horror hybrid is the fourth adaptation of Jack Finney's *The Body Snatchers* to land on screens. Infused with modern details like text messaging and 24-hour cable news, *The Invasion* updates the classic story for today's tech-centric world. After the space shuttle Patriot crashes unexpectedly, people across America begin to exhibit strange behavior. Psychiatrist Carol Bennell (Nicole Kidman) begins to notice the change in those around her, including her ex-husband, Tucker Kaufman (Jeremy Northam), who works at the CDC. Joined by her friend Ben Driscoll (Daniel Craig), Carol attempts to unravel the mystery as she rescues her young son. *The Invasion* gives Kidman a chance to act the part of an action hero. She runs in heels, crashes cars, and shoots guns, but she looks more like a Hitchcockian blonde than a latter-day heroine. Clad in steely grays, she perfectly matches the film's sober palette of neutrals. Genre veteran Veronica Cartright gives a good performance as one of Carol's patients, who suspects that her husband isn't himself. Cartright has appeared in sci-fi classics such as *The X-Files* and *Alien*, but she also starred in Philip Kaufman's 1978 version of the story. Unlike *War Of The Worlds* or *Signs*, the invaders here don't arrive in UFOs or appear as little green (or gray) men. Instead, the threat in *The Invasion* is so creepy because the aliens look just like everyone else. *Warner*

**The Brave One** Director Neil Jordan injects the standard revenge saga with new life by asking difficult questions about the meaning of courage in his thriller *The Brave One*. Jodi Foster showcases her knack for playing characters with a mix of strength and vulnerability, while Terrence Howard's tender charisma comes through in Mercer, the cop who knows more than he's letting on. Foster plays New Yorker Erica Bain, a radio talk show host happily engaged to a doctor. The walls of Erica's safe existence come tumbling down one night during a walk through Central Park with her boyfriend, during which they are mugged, he is killed, and she is severely beaten. When she wakes from a coma three weeks later, Erica's eyes assume a haunted look and she fears the city she once loved. So she buys a gun, and when she witnesses a domestic fight and murder in an all-night convenience store, she uses it to save herself. This first murder opens the door to others, as Erica takes to the streets at night, baiting criminals and extracting her revenge. Her vigilante actions become sensationalized in the media, while her talk show becomes a platform from which to explore her new feelings about New York, the "safest big city in the world." Detective Mercer, who was assigned to Erica's original case, begins to put the pieces together as the bond between the two grows stronger. *The Brave One* is a gritty, engaging, and well-crafted thriller that relies on strongly developed characters, rather than action and violence, to carry a story that makes no easy assumptions about the definitions of good and evil. *Warner*

**The Assassination of Jesse James** Based on the 1983 novel by Ron Hansen, *The Assassination of Jesse James by The Coward Robert Ford* captivantly depicts the final few months of the legendary Jesse James's life. He was 34, and his days of ruthless robbing had dwindled, yet his fearsome reputation continued to swell. With an abundance of nickel-books retelling his brutal gun-slinging adventures, James (portrayed by Brad Pitt, in one his most convincing and moving roles) had become a symbolic hero for many Americans, and a dazzling tabloid icon for the 19th-century media. A particular young man seduced by the wonderment of James, the shifty Robert Ford (a breakthrough performance by Casey Affleck), wormed his way in as a James groupie, in the hopes of snagging a coveted spot alongside his brother Charley (played by the always affable Sam Rockwell) as one of the bandit's cronies. Ford, fiercely insecure and painfully aware that he would never be taken seriously by James (who, ever-plagued by paranoia and skepticism, found Ford's earnest obsession a bit unsettling), grew increasingly angry with his idol, leading to a destructive path that ultimately ended in the anticlimactic death of Jesse James--and brought the treacherous Robert Ford the notoriety he had always wanted. Although this film takes place in the late 1800's, its eerie relevance to modern-day celebrity-obsession scandals is astounding, and adds a fresh scope to what could be viewed as just another cinematic western. Director Andrew Dominick furthers the film from its genre by banishing clichéd bullet-infested showdown scenes, instead embracing the relationships and interactions of the outlaws, and creates a mood of brooding and contemplation with exceptional camera angles and lighting. His intensely sophisticated approach to filmmaking illustrates the darkest corners of the characters, and insightfully provides a deeper, heartfelt portrayal revealing what the men might have been like behind their masks. *Warner*

**Legion Of SuperHeroes Vol. 2** Young Clark Kent, who hasn't yet grown into his full powers, travels to the future to help a group of junior superheroes in these episodes of the animated series. Tasked with saving the universe, the kids are often hampered by their own inexperience. But armed with good intentions, the undisciplined and unpredictable Brainiac 5, Bouncing Boy, Saturn Girl and Clark aim to do their best in the battle against evildoers. *Warner*

**Third Watch Season 1** Get to know the men and women who comprise 55 Squad's police, fire and paramedics units in this debut season of the NBC drama. Veterans and rookies alike are tested every day on the streets of New York City, where danger and stress threaten to engulf them from one moment to the next. Some recruits may buckle under pressure, but an even greater number are able to protect and serve, proving they belong among New York's bravest and finest. Disc 1 includes the following episodes: "Welcome to Camelot," "Anywhere But Here," "Patterns" and "Hell Is What You Make of It." Additional Actors: Danny Burstein, Jeremy Bergman, Nathalie Paulding, Andre Royo, Aesha Waks, John Rothman, Jarrod Bunch, Deirdre Lovejoy, Matt Servitto, Kate Norby. Disc 2 includes the following episodes: "Responsible Parties," "Sunny, Like Sunshine," "Impulse" and "History of the World." Additional Actors: Jeremy Bergman, Brian Tarantina, Lisa Vidal, Rebecca Harrell, Jon Seda, Ritchie Coster, Isiah Whitlock Jr., Daniel London, Kim Brockington, Tracy Howe. Disc 3 includes the following episodes: "Modern Designs for Better Living," "Demolition Derby" and "Alone in a Crowd." Additional Actors: Ossie Davis, Richard V. Licata, Otto Sanchez, Neal Jones, David Vadim, Nick Chinlund, Lisa Vidal, Nahanni Johnstone. Disc 4 includes the following episodes: "Journey to the Himalayas," "This Band of Brothers," "32 Bullets and a Broken Heart" and "Officer Involved." Additional Actors: Jim Gaffigan, Ossie Davis, Nahanni Johnstone, Ashley Wolfe, Lisa Vidal, Frank Senger, Terry Serpico, Adrian Martinez, Victor Verhaeghe, Aunjanue Ellis, Rosie O'Donnell. Disc 5 includes the following episodes: "Nature or Nurture," "Ohio," "Men" and "Spring Forward, Fall Back." Additional Actors: Jack Gwaltney, Lisa Vidal, Myk Watford, Ronald Guttman, Ossie Davis, Will Arnett, James Handy, Raynor Scheine. Disc 6 includes the following episodes: "A Thousand Points of Light," "Just Another Night at the Opera" and "Young Men and Fire." Additional Actors: Eva Larue, Sarah Knowlton, Robert Turano, Samantha Buck, Joseph Siravo, Siobhan Fallon, Peter Giles, Tom Aldredge. *Warner*

**All In** When she was growing up, Alicia Anderson's (Dominique Swain) gambler father (Michael Madsen) taught her the ins and outs of Texas Hold 'Em. Now a driven young med student, Alicia deals with her stress and spiraling financial pressures the only way she knows how: at the card table. Gathering a group of fellow students, she sets out to win big at a nearby casino. But first, she'll have to whip her team into shape if they hope to take on the pros. *MTI*

**2 Days In Paris** Julie Delpy's breezily hilarious feature follows French-born Marion (Delpy) and Jack (Adam Goldberg), her American boyfriend (of two years), on a two-day stop through Paris, where Marion has purchased a tiny apartment one floor up from her rowdy, eccentric parents (played with great ability by Delpy's actual parents). Just passing through after an Italian getaway, the lovebirds are unprepared for the many relationship tests soon thrown their way in the notoriously romantic city. Avoiding the metro on account of Jack's terrorism fears, the couple treks about the city by foot and cabs, getting into several vicious brawls with French cabbies, waiters, and a string of men from Marion's past. When Jack discovers how many of Marion's so called "friends" she used to be intimate with, the trip becomes overshadowed by paranoia. This suspicion would be easy to brush off if only Jack spoke the language, or if all of Marion's exes didn't insist on multiplying. Delpy, who penned, directed, and stars in the feature, has created a truly charming film. *Fox*

# New On Video & DVD

**Blind Dating** Hollywood couple Jane Seymour and James Keach team up to produce this romantic comedy that works hard to tug on the heartstrings. Keach, a former actor turned director/producer, who is known for his close relationship with Johnny Cash, directs this tale about a blind Everyman looking for love. Danny has been blind since birth, and has had trouble with women because of his overprotective family. However, many of those close to Danny want to help with his situation: his mischievous, limo-driving brother Larry sets him up on a series of blind dates, while his therapist (Jane Seymour) goes beyond the call of duty when she learns that Danny is a virgin. Danny becomes convinced that his blindness is to blame for his lack of amorous success, and undertakes an experimental remedy that helps him regain partial sight through a micro-chip implanted in his brain. Ultimately, Danny believes he's found love with the eye doctor's receptionist, Leeza (Anjali Jay), but their relationship is complicated by Leeza's arranged engagement. Although somewhat schizophrenic in tone and subject matter, *Blind Dating* succeeds as a heartwarming tale of love triumphing against all odds--and rather bizarre ones, at that. *Fox*

**Drumline Special Edition** Charles Stone III's crowd-pleasing drama spotlights the previously unheralded world of university marching bands--more specifically, the cutthroat world that energizes Southern black campuses. Devon Miles (Nick Cannon) is a Harlem teenager who receives a full scholarship to attend Atlanta A&T University based on his excellent percussion talents. However, making the transition from hip-hop street drumming to the drumline of the school's legendary marching band is more challenging than Miles expected. For one, the band director, Dr. Lee (Orlando Jones), is determined to reclaim the national championship using old-school tactics, even though his traditional beliefs appear to be leaving A&T in the dust. And then there is Sean (Leonard Roberts), the current drum leader, who is threatened by Devon's skills and frustrated by his fierce individuality. These antagonistic forces, as well as the addition of a cheerleading love interest (Zoe Saldana), combine to test Devon's previously unshakeable confidence. As the season builds toward the BET Big Southern Classic and a showdown with rival Morris Brown University, Devon must swallow his pride and learn to be a team player if he wants his band to win the championship. *Drumline* proves that any subject can make for an invigorating work of entertainment, if handled properly. *Fox*

**The Apartment** Billy Wilder's *The Apartment* blends his customary harsh cynicism with a humane streak that appears only fleetingly in his films. It stars Jack Lemmon as C.C. Baxter, an office clerk who curries favor with the executives in his office by giving them the key to his small apartment for the odd afternoon dalliance. Among them his is his callous boss, J.D. Sheldrake (Fred MacMurray), who Baxter eventually learns is using his place to sleep with Miss Kubelik (Shirley MacLaine), the sweet elevator operator the clerk has loved from afar. When Sheldrake coldly dumps the vulnerable young woman, she tries to commit suicide, but is saved by the intervention of Baxter. As the clerk lovingly nurses the young woman back to health he begins to realize, with the help of epigrammatic neighbor Dr. Dreyfuss (Jack Kruschen), exactly how much of a fool he has been. Wilder brilliant depiction of the average American office as a place of brutality, coldness, and alienation conjure up Kafka and Marx. The director seduces the audience into what appears to be an unusually frank sex comedy, but turns the tables in displaying the consequences of the executive's cold indifference. Lemmon and MacLaine both give career performances and MacMurray is memorable as the blandly smiling snake. *Fox*

**Storm Warning** Horror and depravity characterize this shocker flick from the director of *Urban Legend*. Husband and wife Rob (Robert Taylor) and Pia's (Nadia Farès) weekend boating idyll quickly turns into a holiday nightmare when the weather turns bad and their craft gets lost in the storm, landing them in a desolated swamp. Seeking refuge in a dilapidated house, the couple's problems only worsen when the owners -- hillbilly rednecks with a barn full of marijuana -- return and proceed to enslave and humiliate them. *Weinstein / Genius*

**Dedication** Actor Justin Theroux switches roles and takes a turn behind the camera for the twisted romantic comedy *Dedication*. Billy Crudup stars as Henry, an obsessive-compulsive author of children's books. Henry is forced by his publisher to team up with a new illustrator, Lucy (Mandy Moore), after his former illustrator, Rudy (Tom Wilkinson), suddenly dies. The author's mental state is so fragile that he continues to communicate with Rudy via the Unisphere--a giant globe that was part of the World's Fair in Queens, New York, in the 1960s. Despite Henry's odd behavior, he strives to work to work with Lucy on a sequel to his successful (and porn inspired) kids book entitled "Marty the Beaver." Tensions mount between this very odd couple, but it's not long before they find a common bond, and their feelings for each other take a romantic turn. *Weinstein / Genius*

**Gorillas on the Brink** Actress Natalie Portman and renowned animal expert Jack Hanna delve deep into the rain forests of central Africa in search of the legendary and endangered mountain gorilla. With compelling footage of the gorillas in their jungle home, this episode of *Animal Planet's* Emmy Award-winning "Saving a Species" series is a striking and sobering assessment of the habits and habitats of one of the world's most fascinating animals. *Weinstein / Genius*

**The Jeff Corwin Experience Season 1** Journey with Jeff Corwin as he travels to far-off locations to see some of the world's most interesting animals. Whether in the States or abroad in places such as India, Borneo or Thailand, Corwin is always ready to bring viewers close to the action. Asian elephants, orphan orangutans, venomous snakes and harpy eagles are just a few of the species of wildlife you'll meet in this collection of episodes from the popular *Animal Planet* series. Disc 1 includes the following episodes: "A Wild Man in Borneo," "India: Riding the Cobra Express," "Arizona: Land of the Serpent," "Alaska: Northern Exposure" and "Call of the Cajun Wild." Disc 2 includes the following episodes: "The Royalty of Siam," "Six Days to the Dragon," "Into the Heart of Darkness," "The River Wolf and the Isle of Serpents" and "Into Africa." Disc 3 includes the following episodes: "Madagascar: The Land That Time Forgot," "Bridge Between the Americas," "Galapagos: The Living Laboratory," "Extreme Encounters" and "Snake-tacular." *Weinstein / Genius*

**Bob the Builder: On Site Roads and Bridges** Bob the Builder and his helpful crew visit real construction sites in this addition to the popular children's series. Bob takes youngsters along to watch as holes in the ground gradually turn into completed projects. He explains the difference between support, arch and suspension bridges, and points out the giant mixers, trucks and machinery that get the job done. A sing-along will have kids joining in on "How Do You Do It?" *HIT / Fox*

**Royal Tramp 1 & 2** Stephen Chow stars in these parodic pseudo-period epics that are some of the best in Hong Kong's comic-action tradition. In *Royal Tramp*, Wilson Bond (Chow) is a lovable con artist who finagles his way into the confidence of the Ming Court while fomenting a pro-Ching rebellion--and participating in frequent sexual escapades. The courtly con man returns for more comic adventures in *Royal Tramp 2*. This time around, he helps resist an attempt to overthrow the Ching Dynasty and destroy the Heaven and Earth Society. Brigitte Lin's cameo from the first film is expanded into a fantastic role as a powerful priestess targeted by the traitors. *Weinstein / Genius*

**The Best of America's Test Kitchen:** Best Entertaining Recipes, Best Weeknight Recipes & Best Baking Recipes Thirty essential, fool-proof recipes have been hand-selected by the America's Test Kitchen team to be included in this special compilation release, from Deep-Dish Apple Pie to Grill-Roasted Beef Tenderloin. In addition, viewers will get the benefit of America's Test Kitchen's expertise on everything from kitchen equipment to grocery basics like chocolate, steaks, and tomato paste. Special features include a 40-minute America's Test Kitchen live special event, printable versions of all featured recipes, and a printable shopping guide with recommendations on all of the best supermarket products. *WGBH*

**Blue State** Before the 2004 election, young Democrat John Logue (Breckin Meyer) vowed to leave the country if George W. Bush won a second term. Realizing that his life is a shambles anyway, John makes good on his promise, teaming up with the like-minded Chloe (Anna Paquin) on a road trip to Canada that will challenge their beliefs -- political and otherwise. This wry satire takes on the divisions that emerged during the election and their continuing impact. *MGM*