

New On Video & DVD

Melrose Place Season 2 Creator Darren Star and executive producer Aaron Spelling followed up on the massive success of their 1990s teen drama Beverly Hills 90210 with a spinoff series that went on to match its parent show's popularity (and made its Monday night timeslot a night of must-see TV). A grownup, racier version of 90210, MELROSE PLACE harkened back to the days of classic nighttime soaps like Dynasty and Dallas while adding a decidedly younger, hipper edge with amped-up levels of sex, betrayal, murder, and a multiple personality or two. The backstabbing action centered around a group of fashionable, affluent twentysomethings living in a stylish apartment complex on the titular L.A. strip: vulnerable ad exec Alison Parker (Courtney Thorne-Smith); her roommate/love interest, Billy Campbell (Andrew Shue); the increasingly conniving doctor Michael Mancini (Thomas Calabro); his sweetly innocent wife, Jane (Josie Bissett); her trashy stripper sister, Sydney (Laura Leighton); nice guy Jake Hanson (Grant Show); openly gay Matt Fielding (Doug Savant); tough New York transplant Jo Reynolds (Daphne Zuniga); the utterly psychotic Kimberly Shaw (Marcia Cross); and, of course, one of the best villainous vixens in TV history, Amanda Woodward (Heather Locklear). The ultimate guilty pleasure, Melrose Place's second season is presented in its entirety with this collection of 31 episodes featuring guest appearances by Famke Janssen, Gina Gershon, and Linda Gray. Disk 1 includes the following episodes: "Much Ado About Everything," "Long Night's Journey," "Revenge" and "Fire Power." Disk 2 includes the following episodes: "Of Bikes and Men," "Hot and Bothered," "Flirting With Disaster" and "No Bed of Roses." Disk 3 includes the following episodes: "Married To It," "The Tangled Web," "Collision Course" and "Cold Turkey." Disk 4 includes the following episodes: "Duet for One," "Strange Bedfellows," "Under the Mistletoe" and "Reunion Blues." Disk 5 includes the following episodes: "Michael's Game," "Arousing Suspicion," "The Young Men and the Sea" and "Parting Glances." Disk 6 includes the following episodes: "Swept Away," "With This Ball and Chain," "Otherwise Engaged" and "Love, Mancini Style." Disk 7 includes the following episodes: "The Two Mrs. Mancinis," "In Bed With the Enemy," "Psycho Therapy" and "The Bitch is Back." Disk 8 includes the following episodes: "Imperfect Strangers," "Devil with the G-String On" and "Till Death Do Us Part." *Paramount*

MXC: Most Extreme Elimination Challenge Season 2 Take two teams of fierce yet not necessarily adroit competitors -- say, America's Meat Handlers and the Cartoon Voice-Over Actors -- and put them in dangerously idiotic contests and you begin to picture Spike TV's "MXC." Rounding out the package are funnyman Vic Romano and Kenny Blankenship to provide the commentary, and joining in the sophomoric fun are field marshal Captain Tenneal and sideline reporter Guy LeDouche. *Magnolia*

Tears of the Black Tiger is as assured and dazzling a directorial debut as an individual can hope to deliver. Stylistically electrifying, the film combines filmmaking techniques from the 1960s with a modern jolt of blood and violence, resulting in a work that feels completely fresh and new. The story itself is simple enough: a lower-class boy, Dum, falls in love with a wealthy girl, Rumpoey, but their social differences keep them apart. Years later, Dum returns home only to discover that his father has been murdered by a gang of brutal outlaws. Traumatized by this event, Dum becomes a renegade bandit who will stop at nothing to avenge his father's death. When he reconnects with Rumpoey, she's slated to marry the policeman who has been trying to track down Dum. On her wedding day, Dum (aka Black Tiger) takes matters into his own hands so he can fulfill his dream of being with Rumpoey once and for all. Bursting with Technicolor imagery, an incredibly catchy soundtrack, and enough visual pyrotechnics for three or four movies, Tears Of The Black Tiger plays tribute to the unheralded era when Thai genre films put that country on the cinematic map. If it wasn't for the graphic violence that splashes across the screen throughout the film, one might think they were watching a picture that was actually made in the 1960s--it's that convincing. *Magnolia*

Notes on a Scandal Dame Judi Dench and Kate Blanchett face off with searing performances in this riveting tale of obsession and desire. Based on the novel by Zoe Heller, NOTES ON A SCANDAL is the story of Barbara Covett (Dench), a hard-nosed spinster schoolteacher, and her poisonous friendship with fellow teacher Sheba Hart (Blanchett). When the young and beautiful Sheba shows up as the new art instructor, everyone is charmed by her, including the embittered Barbara. Barbara is thrilled when her lonely life is shaken up by Sheba's overtures of friendship, as Sheba invites her to share in family dinners, and opens up to her about her marital troubles and personal longing. Barbara narrates her own feelings of longing to us from her meticulous diaries, and it becomes increasingly clear that her take on the friendship is uncomfortably intense, if not borderline delusional. Things reach a fever pitch when Barbara happens upon Sheba dallying in the art room with a 15-year-old student. She tells Sheba that she must end the affair at once, but decides not to report her to the school, and instead, to use her knowledge of the indiscretion to draw Sheba closer to her, and put her in her debt. But when Barbara's demands on Sheba become too high, things soon unravel, setting off a chain of events that will leave viewers chewing their nails to the quick, but unable to tear their eyes away. *Fox*

The History Boys A clever look at a British school system's attempts to produce Oxford and Cambridge-worthy graduates, is based on the play of the same title by Alan Bennett. Bennett's play provides an interesting springboard for a film about youth, growing up, education, identity, and the complexities of the student-teacher relationship. Set in Sheffield, England, in the early 1980s, the story follows a class of college-bound high-school boys as they prepare for the rigorous entrance exams. Feeling the boys need grooming beyond what the absurd Mr. Hector (Richard Griffiths) and sarcastic Mrs. Lintott (Frances De La Tour) can offer, the headmaster (Clive Merrison) brings in Mr. Irwin (Stephen Campbell Moore) to fill in the gaps. As a finishing school teacher of sorts, it becomes Irwin's job, through innovative history lessons and bold techniques, to turn children into men. But like his colleagues, Mr. Irwin is not without doubts and of his own, and his inevitable attraction to one of his students is something that he continually struggles with. Not what you'd expect from a film about teenagers, the story veers away from traditional notions of youthful rebellion, instead focusing on more mature issues of sexual orientation, life philosophies, and mortality. *Fox*

The George Eliot Collection: Daniel Deronda The title character of this Masterpiece Theater presentation is the illegitimate son of a wealthy British aristocrat. With a secretive past and an unlimited supply of cash, he turns to gambling where he meets Gwendolyn, a beautiful woman in desperate need of money. From their meeting at a roulette table, a romance blossoms. Daniel, however, is already involved in a passionate relationship with a Jewish singer. Based on George Eliot's novel, this adaptation depicts a heartbreaking love triangle while examining class and wealth in British society. Silas Marner BBC production of George Eliot's 1861 classic story about an old, miserly linen weaver consumed with bitterness and anger until he adopts an abandoned child who brings joy into his life., Adam Bede George Eliot's ADAM BEDE is brought to the screen in this BBC production. James Wilby, Iain Glen, and Patsy Kensit star in Eliot's passionate tale of love and betrayal, which centers on the title character (played by Wilby), his misguided wooing of a local dairymaid Hetty Sorrel (Kensit), and his thwarted ambitions for a better life., The Mill on the Floss Ronald Wilson (How Green Was My Valley) directs this TV adaptation of George Eliot's classic. A mill passes between two families in a multi-generational tale, alternating between the wealthy Tulliver clan--headed by the bullying Tom (Christopher Blake)--and the poor but decent Philip Wakem. Maggie Tulliver (Pippa Guard), Tom's sister and the protagonist, is the unfortunate though noble link between the two., Middlemarch 19th century Great Britain. The Industrial Revolution brings both the promise and fear of change. In the provincial town of Middlemarch, the progressive Dorothea Brooke desperately seeks intellectual fulfillment in a male-dominated society and is driven into an unhappy marriage to the elderly scholar Casaubon. No sooner do they embark on their honeymoon than she meets and develops an instant connection with Casaubon's young cousin, Will Ladislaw. When idealistic Doctor Lydgate arrives, his new methods of medicine sweep him into the battle between conservatives and liberals in town. He quickly becomes enamored of the beautiful, privileged Rosamond Vincy, a woman whose troubles seem bound to destroy him. *BBC*

Shameless Season 1 The Gallagher family are the basis for this British sitcom, which flows from the pen of acclaimed writer Paul Abbott (Reckless). Fiona, Lip, Carl, Liam, Ian, and Debbie are the sons and daughters of Frank Gallagher, and he even found the time to sire another two kids with his lover, Sheila. The mother of the family disappeared years ago, so responsibility falls on the shoulders of the oldest sister, Fiona, who has to cope with innumerable problems as the family members go through all-too familiar growing pains. Plenty of sex, scandal, and a lot of laughs ensue as the first season of Shameless unravels. *Warner*

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Illegal Aliens Anna Nicole Smith's final motion picture was *ILLEGAL ALIENS*--a sci-fi satire about three aliens who help save the Earth from treacherous invaders. The aliens disguise themselves as curvy female model-types and camp it up as they undertake their mission. Director David Giancola (*TIME CHASERS*) stirs plenty of B-movie mirth into the mix as *ILLEGAL ALIENS* leaps from one hysterical scene to the next. *MTI*

Pulp Pulp fiction writer Mickey King gets mixed up with gangsters and murder on the island of Malta in this parody of private eye mysteries. It all begins when movie legend Preston Gilbert hires King to ghostwrite an autobiography about his colorful life. And Gilbert, who now lives in a secluded villa with his mistress, wife and bodyguard, will pull no punches in the book. The former actor wants to include the names of the many shady people he's known over the years. But then Gilbert ends up dead, and King turns sleuth to find out who killed him. In the process, the writer finds himself in the same dangerous position as the famous screen private eyes who have inspired him. *MGM*

Thieves Like Us a 1949 adaptation of the Raymond Chandler novel--is an authentic, understated drama that is as much a love story as it is a gangster picture. Taking place in the South during the 1930s Depression, the film follows the exploits of three recent prison escapees who become wanted after a string of bank robberies. The hapless criminals--Bowie (Keith Carradine), Chicamaw (John Schuck), and T-Dub--shack up at the home of Dee Mobley (Tom Skerritt), where Bowie falls in love with Dee's daughter Keechie (Shelley Duvall). Soon, Keechie in tow, the foursome settles at Mattie's (Louise Fletcher) house. Eventually, Bowie and Keechie move in together and struggle to maintain their relationship while Chicamaw and T-Dub do their best to stay out of trouble, but before they can perform one final robbery, the law threatens to put them out of commission. Altman tells an honest story of ordinary people who fell into a life of crime because it was the only thing they knew how to do. *Fox*

Jane Eyre Orson Welles stars as Edward Rochester, the brooding employer of governess Jane Eyre in this adaptation of Charlotte Brontë's Gothic novel. An orphan with a tragic story herself, young Jane (Joan Fontaine) slowly frees Edward from his self-imposed prison, but his troubled past stands in the way of their burgeoning love. Directed by Robert Stevenson, this 20th Century Fox production also stars Margaret O'Brien and Agnes Moorehead. *Fox*

The Pink Panther & Friends The Ant & The Aardvark This series from the animation team that created the Pink Panther cartoons follows a simpleminded blue aardvark who sounds a lot like Jackie Mason and is obsessed with catching his wily nemesis, a red ant named Charlie (both voiced by John Byner). All 17 short episodes are included in this collection. Charlie, who was modeled after Dean Martin, easily avoids even the most fiendishly clever traps, but the aardvark never gives up the chase. *MGM*

Slingshot In this moody thriller, New York con artists Taylor (Balthazar Getty) and Ashley (David Arquette) ride into a Connecticut suburb to romance and rob rich housewives. Things go according to plan until Taylor starts to fall for one of his prey, the sweet and love-starved Karen (Juliana Margulies). And when her Ivy-League daughter, April (Thora Birch), develops an interest in her mother's lover, it sets into motion a series of events that may end in catastrophe. *Weinstein / Genius*

Anna Karenina Vivien Leigh stars as Anna Karenina, a woman who leaves her socialite husband behind for a more exciting military officer. In search of a meaningful relationship as well as an exciting and more adventurous life, Anna goes through a string of emotions when she becomes the third party of a strenuous love triangle. From depression to happiness to near emotional destruction, she must learn to deal with the elements that surround her tragic existence. *Fox*

Les Misérables Victor Hugo's towering novel about the social inequities that were rampant in 18th century France gets the made-for-TV treatment in this superior production. The immortal story follows a minor thief (Richard Jordan) who rises above his past only to be hounded by an implacable chief inspector (Anthony Perkins) who fervently believes that law and morality are entwined and that all criminals are wicked. Also stars Cyril Cusack and Sir John Gielgud. *Fox*

The Chocolate War Keith Gordon's directorial debut is an adaptation of Robert Cormier's novel about one boy's quest for personal freedom. Jerry (Ilan Mitchell-Smith) is an idealistic freshman at Trinity, a Catholic high school for boys, who refuses to accept the status quo of the conventional school. The annual chocolate sale at Trinity is a source of revenue and great pride for Brother Leon (John Glover), a tyrannical and egomaniacal teacher who has been put in charge of the sale as acting headmaster. In an attempt to undermine Brother Leon's grand scheme to sell more chocolates than ever before, Archie (Wally Ward), the smug and brilliant leader of the Vigils, an elite secret society at the school, delivers an assignment to Jerry--refuse to accept any chocolates to sell for 10 days. Jerry willingly agrees to the plan but unexpectedly defies the system when he refuses to take part in the sale at all, infuriating Brother Leon and Archie, who unite to terrorize the young rebel. The power struggle that ensues is a brilliant lesson in intimidation and manipulation delivered by schoolmates and teachers alike. This dreamy and surreal study of youths coping with power and rebellion is reminiscent of *Lord Of The Flies* and *Dead Poets Society*, delivering a refreshing and simple view of a classic underdog played with great subtlety by the young Mitchell-Smith. Glover is superbly wicked as the pathological Brother Leon. *Fox / MGM*

Born To Fight In this action-packed thriller from Thailand, Special Forces officer Deaw (Chupong Changprung) becomes despondent after his partner is killed by General Yang (Nappon Gomarachun), a notorious drug baron. Hoping to heal, Deaw takes time off work and accompanies his sister (Kessarin Ektawatkul) and a group of gymnasts on a humanitarian mission to a small village. But when Yang shows up and terrorizes the village, Deaw must spring back into action. *Weinstein*

The Last Supper A plastic surgeon who excels at his job hides a dark secret in *The Last Supper*. After finally succumbing to his desire to taste human flesh, the surgeon soon finds himself addicted to the taste of his patients' skin, which leads him to discover further culinary delights at a seedy restaurant with some highly dubious special dishes. Murder and mayhem ensue as the demented doctor continues to find new and gruesome ways to satisfy his appetite. *MTI*

Desk Sets 5 Minute Desk Workouts *Desk Sets* is a collection of 10 quick exercise routines (approximately 5 minutes each) you can do right in your office, using your desk, chair and filing cabinet. Also included are two bonus routines to help prevent carpal tunnel syndrome and neck and shoulder stiffness. By using *5-Minute Desk Workouts: Desk Sets* you can choose from a variety of exercise routines targeting various parts of the body including neck and shoulders, arms and hands, back, legs and more. Each workout is designed to relieve muscle tension and stress, while helping to maintain strength, flexibility and muscle tone. Sharyn Pak (ACSM, ACE Master Trainer) is a successful personal trainer, fitness writer, instructor, and host of her own cable television program, *Bringing Fitness to You!* She is a recognized expert in matters of health and fitness, and has been the subject of numerous published articles. *Bayview*

Fat Burning Kickboxing Workout For Dummies Drawing on over 17 years of professional experience, fitness instructor Keli Roberts leads beginners through the basics of kickboxing for weight loss. Perfect for calorie burning, kickboxing is intensive and provides an overall body workout. This program introduces viewers to the basics, providing detailed instruction and clear tutorials so that they can get started toning and losing weight. *Anchor Bay*

Lost King of the Maya This documentary from PBS's acclaimed *Nova* series explores the truth behind the Mayan dynasty of the Blood Lords. Under the rule of Yax K'uk Mo, this bloody period of Mayan civilization--with its ritual warfare, and human sacrifices--was long thought fantasy by scholars. But now, among the pyramids and temples of the ancient city of Copan, a team of archaeologists and historians makes new discoveries, and comes to new conclusions about the Blood Lords, their success, and ultimate downfall. *Boston*

True Confessions In Los Angeles, circa 1940, an embittered, once-corrupt cop named Tom Spellacy is investigating two murders: that of a priest found dead in a warehouse, and that of a mutilated woman in a park. As he searches for the culprits, Spellacy uncovers an immense web of corruption, involving prostitutes, dirty cops and pornography. Even the Roman Catholic Church is implicated, particularly one Monsignor Des Spellacy, Tom's brother. Although Des is innocent of any wrongdoing, his actions raise moral and religious issues that Tom must deal with, in order to solve these bizarre murders. *Fox/MGM*