

# New On Video & DVD

**Two and a Half Men Season 3** Charlie Sheen takes a starring role in *Two And A Half Men*, a genial CBS comedy about a dysfunctional family. Sheen plays Charlie Harper, who enjoys the bachelor life in his Malibu beach house. His existence consists of an endless stream of partying and dating until his brother, Alan (Jon Cryer), moves in with him. Alan's life has fallen apart after a separation from his wife, but he still has custody of his young son, Jake (Angus T. Jones), who also moves into Charlie's Malibu home. Supporting characters include Alan's crazy ex-wife, Charlie and Alan's overbearing mother, and their sharp-tongued housekeeper Berta. The makeshift family formed by Charlie, Alan, and Jake provides plenty of laughs and a few poignant moments in this complete third season of episodes. *Warner*

**Fox Western Classics: Rawhide, The Gunfighter & Garden of Evil.** One of the first of the '50s "adult Westerns," "The Gunfighter" (1950) stars Gregory Peck as a weary gunslinger trying to visit his estranged wife and son, but finding from town to town that he can't escape his reputation as "fastest draw in the land." With Karl Malden, Helen Westcott, Millard Mitchell. Next, the 1935 gangster film "Show Them No Mercy" was transformed into a Western for "Rawhide" (1951), a suspenseful tale of four people at a stagecoach station who are taken hostage by a gang of robbers. Tyrone Power, Susan Hayward, Hugh Marlowe, Dean Jagger, and Edgar Buchanan star. And, three men on their way to mine for gold in California stop in Mexico where they accept a lucrative--and dangerous--offer from a woman who promises them \$2,000 each to rescue her husband from a caved-in mine shaft, in "Garden of Evil" (1954). Gary Cooper, Richard Widmark, Hayward, Marlowe star. 4 1/2 hrs. total on three discs. *Fox*

**Mission Impossible Season 4** Forty years before it hit the big screen via a glossy Tom Cruise remake, the classic television series *Mission Impossible* captivated audiences with its tense and stylish thrill ride through Cold War espionage. Following the globetrotting exploits of a covert taskforce of government spies--team leader James Phelps (Peter Graves), electronics expert Barney Collier (Greg Morris), tough guy Willy Armitage (Peter Lupus), and master of disguise The Great Paris (Leonard Nimoy, replacing Martin Landau)--the series distinguished itself with intricate plotting, high-tech gadgetry, inventive cinematography, and, of course, an indelible theme song. Smart and iconic, the vintage series is resurrected in this collection of episodes from the fourth season. Disc 1 includes the following episodes: "The Code," "Numbers Game," "The Controller (Part 1)" and "The Controller (Part 2)." Additional Actors: Michael Constantine, A Martinez, Harold Gould, Lee Meriwether, Harry Davis, David Sheiner. Disc 2 includes the following episodes: "Fool's Gold," "Commandante," "Double Circle" and "The Submarine." Additional Actors: Nehemiah Persoff, Ronald Long, David Opatoshu, Sally Ann Howes, Sid Haig, Anne Francis, Jason Evers, Lee Meriwether, Stephen McNally, Larry Linville, Lloyd Battista, Noel de Souza, Barbara Luna, John Aniston. Disc 3 includes the following episodes: "Robot," "Mastermind," "The Brothers" and "Time Bomb." Additional Actors: Larry Linville, Lloyd Battista, Noel de Souza, Barbara Luna, John Aniston. Disc 4 This disc includes the following episodes: "The Amnesiac," "The Falcon (Part 1)," "The Falcon (Part 2)" and "The Falcon (Part 3)." Additional Actors: Steve Ihnat, Lisabeth Hush, Anthony Zerbe, John Vernon, Logan Ramsey, Noel Harrison, Jack Donner. Disc 5 includes the following episodes: "Chico," "Gitano," "Phantoms" and "Terror." Additional Actors: Fernando Lamas, Percy Rodrigues, Jock Gaynor, Peter Mark Richman, Margarita Cordova, Antoinette Bower, Jeff Pomerantz, David Opatoshu, Joe De Santis. Disc 6 includes the following episodes: "Lover's Knot," "Orpheus" and "The Crane." Additional Actors: Jane Marrow, Jerry Douglas, Peter Ashton, Booth Colman, Bruce Glover, Gene Benton, Don Eitner, Eric Mason. Disc 7 includes the following episodes: "Death Squad," "The Choice" and "The Martyr." Additional Actors: Leon Askin, Cicely Tyson, Pernell Roberts, Nan Martin, Arthur Franz, Alan Bergmann, John Larch, Scott Marlowe. *Paramount/CBS*

**I Spy - Season One** American secret agents Kelly Robinson (Robert Culp) and Alexander Scott (Bill Cosby) tackle an exhausting variety of international counterespionage missions while respectively posing as a champion tennis player and his athletic trainer as *I Spy* embarks upon its first season. Unlike other spy shows of the period, which were filmed exclusively on Hollywood backlots, *I Spy* relies extensively upon location shooting in a variety of far-flung lands. This season, Kelly and Scotty's permutations take them to Hong Kong, Tokyo, and Mexico (and, occasionally, the Desilu studios in L.A. for close-ups and exposition scenes). Although the series was originally conceived as a starring vehicle for Robert Culp, from the outset Culp's co-star Bill Cosby is given equal footing, and even dominates the proceedings in several episodes -- a rarity for an African-American performer in the mid-'60s. It can be argued that Cosby's presence on the series permitted producer Sheldon Leonard to provide a number of major black actors with bravura guest-star turns that might have been denied them on other programs. In the very first episode, "So Long, Patrick Henry," Ivan Dixon is seen as an embittered athlete who has defected to the "enemy," with Cicely Tyson as Dixon's sweetheart, an African princess. Later on, comedian Godfrey Cambridge plays it straight as a cold-blooded crime kingpin (described by Cambridge as a "Black Goldfinger") in "Court of the Lion." And best of all, Eartha Kitt delivers an Emmy-winning performances as an expatriate nightclub singer hopelessly addicted to drugs in "The Loser." Other noteworthy first-season guest-star turns are provided by Martin Landau as the title character in the ironically yclept episode "Danny Was a Million Laughs"; Carroll O'Connor as a wickedly pragmatic Russian brainwashing expert in "It's All Done With Mirrors"; and France Nuyen (soon to be the wife of series star Robert Culp) in "The Tiger." Although the overall tone of *I Spy* is somber and serious, with the two protagonists plunged in a hellish world of betrayal and backstabbing in which friends and enemies are virtually interchangeable, most of the episodes are leavened by the hilarious verbal byplay between Culp and Cosby. Reportedly, much of this banter was improvised on the set, and it went over so well with viewers that the actors were encouraged to ad-lib to their heart's content in subsequent seasons -- so much so that in some cases, one yearned for "dramatic relief" from all the comedy! In addition to the aforementioned award bestowed upon guest star Eartha Kitt, *I Spy*'s inaugural season also yielded an Emmy statuette for leading man Bill Cosby. *Image Entertainment*

**The Cottage** When feuding brothers David (Andy Serkis) and Peter (Reece Shearsmith) abduct a young woman (Jennifer Ellison) and hole up in a remote rural cottage, their hostage quickly turns the tables on her captors. But soon, it's all for one when they find that the deranged farmer next door is the real threat. Hellraiser's Doug Bradley makes a cameo in this blood-drenched yet humor-laced terror treat from writer-director Paul Andrew Williams. *Sony*

**Youth Without Youth** Francis Ford Coppola returns to the director's chair for the first time in nearly a decade with his ambitious parable *Youth Without Youth*. Set in Romania on the eve of World War II, the tale begins when 70-year-old linguistics professor Dominic Matei (Tim Roth) is struck by lightning, miraculously restoring him to the flower of youth. Swaddled in bandages, blind, and mute, Dominic astounds his doctor (Bruno Ganz) with his swift recovery--new teeth, smooth skin, and a shining mane of hair--and even the young nurses start to take an interest in the dashing, vigorous septuagenarian. But things turn perilous when the Third Reich learns of Dominic's rejuvenation and wants to harness his new, superhuman abilities. On the run in wartorn Europe, Dominic uses his powers to keep one step ahead of the Nazis and finish his life's work, an expansive study on language and human consciousness. The unpredictable plot thickens when Dominic falls for Veronica (Alexandra Maria Lara), a beautiful young woman who reminds him of a lost love and, what's more, has also had a fateful encounter with lightning--leaving her possessed by the spirits of her past lives! As she journeys from Switzerland to Malta to India, Veronica's unusual predicament may hold the key to completing Dominic's encyclopedic masterwork, but perhaps at the cost of their new life together. *Sony*

**Astrospies** This engrossing documentary looks at the covert side of the 1960s and '70s space race when the United States and the Soviet Union developed supersecret, manned spy satellites capable of high-resolution photography -- and equipped for battle. Featuring interviews with former American and Russian cosmic spies and a tour of a decommissioned Soviet space station, this eye-opening video will expand your understanding of the Cold War as never before. *WGBH Boston*