

New On Video & DVD

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Friday the 13th Director Marcus Nispel tackles 1980's slasher favorite to bring unstoppable killing machine Jason Voorhees to a new generation of gorehounds. Lasting 10 films and going to any length (including New York City and outer space) to provide Jason with fresh meat, the Friday The 13th series was always about inventive death scenes. Nispel streamlines the events of the original (where Jason's mother was the killer) into an extended prologue before providing an original story in which Jason begins his killing spree and finds his iconic mask. Decades after the death of Jason's mother, a group of twentysomethings descends on the backwoods town near abandoned Camp Crystal Lake in search of a rumored marijuana crop. Whitney Miller (Amanda Righetti) finds the old Voorhees house and discovers a locket revealing that she resembles Jason's mother. Jason (Derek Mears) arrives and, thinking she is his mother reincarnated, holds Whitney captive. Weeks later, Trent (Travis Van Winkle) and his friends arrive to stay at his father's vacation home, while Clay (Jared Padalecki) shows up to look for his missing sister Whitney. Meanwhile, Jason finds a hockey mask to cover his startling face and begins to satisfy his bloodlust with the hard-partying new arrivals. Working once again with producer Michael Bay, Nispel crafts a Friday "reboot" that is slick and well-made, giving audiences exactly what they expect from the franchise: blood and breasts in equal measure. With knowing humor, he plunges directly into the saga, leaving the titles until 15 minutes into the film, at which point Jason has already dispatched several victims. After that, there is topless waterskiing and death by a wealth of means, all of which will have fans glad to have Jason back from outer space. Warner

Gunsmoke Season 3, Volume 2 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). Marshall Matt Dillon (James Arness) continues to battle the bad guys in the frontier town of Dodge City in these episodes from the third season of the classic TV Western co-starring Dennis Weaver, Amanda Blake and Milburn Stone. In this collection, Doc (Stone) is taken hostage by bank robbers, Matt gets stuck in a blizzard with a cabin full of crazed bandits, a laughing gas show comes to town and more. Disc 1 includes the following episodes: "Claustrophobia," "Ma Tennis," "Sunday Supplement," "Wild West," "The Cabin," "Dirt" and "Dooly Surrenders." Additional Actors: Jason Johnson, Vaughn Taylor, Joe Maross, Theodore Newton. Disc 2 includes the following episodes: "Joke's On Us," "Bottleman," "Laughing Gas," "Texas Cowboys," "Amy's Good Deed," "Hanging Man" and "Innocent Broad." Additional Actors: Herbert Lytton, Michael Hinn, Craig Duncan, Ross Martin. Disc 3 includes the following episodes: "The Big Con," "Widow's Mite," "Chester's Hanging," "Carmen," "Overland Express" and "The Gentleman." Additional Actors: Alan Dexter, Gordon Mills, Charles Cooper, Luis Van Rooten. Paramount/CBS

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Though the premise may have seemed far-fetched, the series was actually based on the experiences of series creator Bud Ruskin, who worked in an L.A. narcotics squad. The Mod Squad is back in full swing in this second installment of Season 2 episodes, with Pete (Michael Cole), Linc (Clarence Williams III) and Julie (Peggy Lipton) fighting crime under the able direction of police Capt. Adam Greer (Tige Andrews). Among other developments, Julie catches the eye of a Middle Eastern prince; Linc flirts with jealousy; and Pete reconnects with a former fraternity brother under less than desirable circumstances Disc 1 includes the following episodes: "The Debt," "Sweet Child of Terror," "The King of Empty Cups" and "A Town Called Sincere." Additional Actors: Ross Elliott, Peter Brown, Nehemiah Persoff, Marjorie Bennett. Disc 2 includes the following episodes: "The Exile," "Survival House," "Mother of Sorrow" and "The Deadly Sin." Additional Actors: Nico Minardos, Ben Aliza, Byron Morrow, James B. Sicking. Disc 3 includes the following episodes: "A Time For Remembering," "Return To Darkness, Return To Light," "Call Back Yesterday," "Should Auld Acquaintance Be Forgot" and "The Loser." Additional Actors: Russ Conway, Gary Vinson, Florence Halop, Jerry Strickler. Paramount/CBS

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Pink Panther 2 Steve Martin once again dons the mantle of the giddily absurd Inspector Clouseau. This time, the bumbling French lawman, relieved of meter-maid duty, attempts to track down a bold thief known as the Tornado, who makes off with many of the world's cultural treasures, including the Magna Carta, the Shroud of Turin, and, of course, the Pink Panther Diamond. Aiding Clouseau is a team of international investigators, most notably a Brit (Alfred Molina) and an Italian (Andy Garcia), all of whom get to marvel at his unfiltered silliness. While this second installment of the Pink Panther series reboot features some changes to the creative team, with director Harald Zwart replacing Shawn Levy and John Cleese stepping in for Kevin Kline as the sourpuss Chief Inspector Dreyfus, the movie reunites Martin with the always-likeable actors Jean Reno and Emily Mortimer. Also joining the ensemble cast are Bollywood superstar Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Jeremy Irons, and Martin's old comrade Lily Tomlin, making this sequel quite crowded with top-notch talent. Though the film itself doesn't live up to its potential--the Clouseau role is still securely owned by the late, great Peter Sellers it offers up plenty of chuckle-inducing moments as Martin hams it up with grand mispronunciations and gleeful slapstick. *Fox*

American Dad Season 4 From the creators of Family Guy comes another outrageous and over-the-top take on the American nuclear family. With his doting wife, Francine, at his side Stan Smith--CIA agent, anti-terror operative, and upstanding citizen--runs a household that includes his ultra-liberal daughter, Hayley; his dweeb son, Steve; a sarcastic alien named Roger; and a lascivious German goldfish, Klaus. In this fourth volume of episodes, the family Smith experience "The Most Adequate Christmas Ever," go through a nasty "Spring Breakup," celebrate a big birthday with "1600 Candles," and ultimately "Escape from Pearl Bailey." This collection includes the final eight episodes of season three (starting with "Christmas" and excluding "Frannie 911") and the first six episodes of Season Four. *Fox*

Shonen Jump Bleach Volume 17 Based on a popular manga, Bleach is a thrilling anime series about Ichigo Kurosaki, a 15-year-old boy with the ability to see ghosts. With the help of Rukia Kuchiki, a death god from the Soul Society, he uses his special power to protect the living from evil spirits. In this volume, A powerful new enemy has appeared in Karakura Town. Known as Bounts, these creatures suck the souls from humans. Rukia, Yoruichi and Soi Fon are sent from the Soul Society to investigate, and Urahara enlists the help of three mod souls to assist Ichigo and friends in preventing the deadly attacks. A powerful new enemy has appeared in Karakura Town. Known as Bounts, these creatures suck the souls from humans. Rukia, Yoruichi and Soi Fon are sent from the Soul Society to investigate, and Urahara enlists the help of three mod souls to assist Ichigo and friends in preventing the deadly attacks. *Viz Media*

Pokemon Battle Dimension This collection of episodes from the hit, long-running anime series rejoins Brock and Ash on their continuing Pokemon escapades with their new friend Dawn, who wants to follow her mother's footsteps as a coordinator. In the Sinnoh area, the group journeys to find Pokemon, strengthen their abilities, and battle Team Rocket. Volume 1 Ash Ketchum and his friends Brock and Dawn continue their adventures through the legendary Sinnoh region in this exciting collection of episodes from the second season of the Diamond and Pearl Pokémon series. While Ash works on acquiring his next two Gym badges, Dawn must overcome her recent series of setbacks in order to move forward. Meanwhile, the group works to thwart the dangers created by Pokémon Hunter J and Team Galactic. Vol. 2 A few new Pokémon -- including Paul's distressed Chimchar -- join Ash, Brock and Dawn as they have more action-packed adventures in the Sinnoh region. Now they must expand their knowledge to incorporate these newcomers. A session at Professor Rowan's Pokémon Summer Academy should help -- but meanwhile, they must continue to foil Pokémon Hunter J and Team Galactic's efforts to thwart their progress. *Viz Media*

Shonen Jump Rolight: Visions of a God Blending manga, mystery, and action, this popular release stars Light Yagami, a young student who discovers the powerful Death Note, a death-foretelling notebook from a shinigami god, and decides to use it to do good instead of evil. This spin-off from the original series looks at the action from the point-of-view of Ryuk, the shinigami who dropped the Death Note into the human world. When rogue shinigami Ryuk deliberately drops his Death Note in the human world out of boredom, he has no idea how far the human who picks it up will take his newfound power. With the Death Note in hand, brilliant high school student Light Yagami vows to rid the world of evil and when criminals begin dropping dead one by one, genius detective L steps in to track down the elusive killer known as Kira. An epic battle of wits pitting one brilliant mind against another unfolds with the very future of humanity at stake! Ryuk's not bored anymore. *Viz Media*

The Jack Lemmon Film Collection: Phht Robert and Nina Tracey (Jack Lemmon and Judy Holliday) resolve to live separate lives when their eight-year marriage dissolves into disagreements and divorce. But their separate attempts to get back out on the dating scene have a funny way of bringing them together. Jack Carson co-stars as an old Navy buddy who offers to share his bachelor pad with Robert, with Kim Novak appearing as a prospective new girlfriend. Operation Mad Ball Fueled by his feelings for a pretty World War II-era nurse (Kathryn Grant), the mischievous Pvt. Hogan (Jack Lemmon) plots to throw a "mad ball" for love-starved nurses and soldiers at a ramshackle inn in the French countryside. Trouble is, there's a self-important captain (Ernie Kovacs) who's been watching his every move, which makes hosting a secret soiree all the more challenging. Dick York of "Bewitched" co-stars as Hogan's partner in crime. -The Notorious Landlady After moving to London, American diplomat William (Jack Lemmon) begins an exhilarating romance with his sexy landlady, Carlye (Kim Novak). When he learns the police suspects Carlye of killing her husband, William finds himself caught in the middle of a murder investigation. Featuring an intricate plot full of surprises, this witty mystery also stars Fred Astaire as William's boss American Ambassador Franklyn Ambruster. Under the Yum Yum Tree Jack Lemmon imbues his role as a lecherous apartment manager with enough slyly comic charm to make viewers overlook the movie's improbable premise -- namely, that an unmarried couple would cohabitate platonically to determine whether they should marry. Carol Lynley plays the pretty young tenant, Dean Jones is her live-in beau, and Paul Lynde and Imogene Coca are a hoot as the hired help in this 1963 film adaptation of the hit Broadway play. Good Neighbor In this urbane comedy of errors, advertising man Sam Bissel (Jack Lemmon, in a BAFTA-nominated performance) is happily married to all-American Minerva (Dorothy Provine). He's trying to land the Nurdlinger milk account, but when old-fashioned Simon Nurdlinger (Edward G. Robinson) mistakes Minerva's sexy French friend, Janet Lagerlof (Romy Schneider), for Sam's wife, the trio find they have to keep up the pretense or be mistaken for swingers. *Sony*

Brother's War Near the end of World War II, British Officer Pearman (Hugh Daly) discovers a secret Russian plot that could alter the course of history. To warn the Allied forces, Pearman must team up with a German captain (Tino Struckmann) and escape from scores of deadly Russian soldiers. Based on actual events and full of action and suspense, this war film also stars Michael Berryman, Olivier Gruner and Hayley Carr. *MTI*

Killing Ariel Enchanted by lusty she-demon Ariel (Axelle Cummings) and lured to a remote house for a weekend of passion, happily married Rick (Michael Brainard) tries to break free of the evil spell by killing the succubus, only to have the demon rise from the dead to keep him ensnared. Time and again Rick slays Ariel, who simply returns to life to continue her game. How can Rick escape a supernatural creature who refuses to die? *MTI*

New On Blu-Ray

X-Men Trilogy : X-Men Based on the long-running Marvel comic book series, X-MEN takes place in the near future, as certain humans are evolving into mutants with special powers. In the Canadian wilderness, a young runaway mutant named Rogue (Anna Paquin) and Wolverine (Hugh Jackman), a bad-tempered, quick-healing mutant with retractable metal claws, are suddenly attacked by the powerful Magneto (Ian McKellen) and his lackeys. Fortunately, Cyclops (James Marsden) and Storm (Halle Berry), students of the compassionate Professor Charles Xavier (Patrick Stewart), interfere and bring them back to Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters. Here Wolverine and Rogue learn more about the conflict between Xavier and the militant Magneto, who wants to power a device that will genetically alter humans, with possibly deadly results. Only Xavier's students can stop Magneto's plans. Director Bryan Singer displays his expertise with an ensemble cast, accomplishing a feat by making the first live-action film about an entire group of superheroes. Hugh Jackman's portrayal of the ill-tempered Wolverine is dead-on, while Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellen are ideally matched in their Martin Luther King, Jr.- and Malcolm X-like roles. Smart and well-paced, X-Men towers above most comic book movies., X2 - X-Men United the remarkable sequel to X-Men, picks up shortly after the first film's finale. At the White House, a would-be assassin--the acrobatic, teleporting blue mutant Nightcrawler (Alan Cumming)--menaces the president. Meanwhile, in the Canadian Rockies, Wolverine (Hugh Jackman) searches for answers to his mysterious past at the top-secret facility where he received his metallic skeleton and claws. Back at Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters, Jean Grey (Famke Janssen) and Storm (Halle Berry) instruct students Rogue (Anna Paquin), Iceman (Shawn Ashmore), and Pyro (Aaron Stanford), while Professor Xavier (Patrick Stewart) and Cyclops (James Marsden) pay a visit to the imprisoned Magneto (Ian McKellen). However, Magneto has a secret weapon in the shape-shifting Mystique (Rebecca Romijn-Stamos). Soon allies and enemies alike will unite to defeat the hate-filled military scientist William Stryker (Brian Cox), who wants to rid the world of mutants. When Stryker launches a ruthless two-pronged attack that leaves the school under siege and Xavier and Cyclops captured, Wolverine and the remaining X-Men must spring to action to save their friends and prevent all-out genocide. Even better than its excellent precursor, X2 delves deeper into the X-Men mythology, introducing new characters and touching on essential storylines from the decades-long run of the Marvel comic book series. Providing larger action-packed set pieces and more advanced special effects, director Bryan Singer further develops the characters of Jean Grey, Storm, Nightcrawler, Rogue, Iceman, Pyro, and Mystique. Each member of the cast breathes vitality into their mutant characters with Wolverine, perfectly portrayed by Jackman, once again the wild heart at the center. A love letter to longtime fans of the comic and an amazingly entertaining movie for everyone else, X2: X-Men United is that rare breed of sequel that manages to improve on the original in every way., X-Men The Last Stand As the third installment of the X-Men series opens, the world has entered a relatively peaceful period for mutants. There's a mutant-tolerant president of the United States, a blue furry mutant named Beast (Kelsey Grammer) heading up the Department of Mutant Affairs, and Magneto's shape-shifting femme fatale, Mystique, has been captured. The tranquility is shattered by two events. Worthington Laboratories, using a powerful mutant boy, develops a serum that eliminates the "mutant X gene" permanently. This so-called "cure" quickly divides the mutant community; Professor Xavier (Patrick Stewart) and his school are willing to give the government the benefit of the doubt, but Magneto (Ian McKellen) and his mutant Brotherhood see the serum as a vile threat to their way of life. They form an army of mutants and march on the fortified Worthington Laboratory located on Alcatraz Island. A much more dire threat appears in the form of the resurrected super-mutant Jean Grey (Famke Janssen), who has succumbed to her cataclysmic Id identity known as The Phoenix. To face these menaces Wolverine (Hugh Jackman) and Storm (Halle Berry) and the younger members of the X-Men must leap into action, but they must do so without the guidance of Professor Xavier--in a showdown with the powers of The Phoenix, his mind-control powers proved insufficient. To his credit, new X-Men director Brett Ratner emulates the style and tone struck by Bryan Singer (director of the two previous films) by combining outrageous special effects and hyperkinetic action sequences with earnest soul-searching and mutant "issues" that are clearly meant to parallel the political hot-button topics of tolerance, prejudice, power, and responsibility. *Fox*

South Pacific 50th Anniversary Love blossoms on a paradisaical South Seas island during World War II in this splashy screen production of the hit Broadway musical. A Navy nurse falls for a French planter, an American lieutenant woos a fetching native girl and an assortment of sailors lust after female military personnel. All this amorous activity, with the attendant problems of interracial romance, provide fodder for the some of Rodger & Hammerstein's most famous and well-loved tunes, including "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Out of My Hair," "Bali Ha'i," and "Got to Be Taught to Hate." *Fox*

The Reader Though The Reader may boast the typical pedigree of a Holocaust film--acclaimed actors, a literary source, and an Oscar-baiting end-of-the-year release date--this drama has a significant difference: it focuses on a perpetrator, rather than the victims. Kate Winslet takes on the hefty supporting role of Hanna Schmitz, a woman who has an affair with Michael Berg (German actor David Kross), a 15-year-old boy in 1950s Germany. They spend their brief romance alternately making love and focusing on literature, with Michael reading everything from Chekov to Homer to his lover. Soon, Hanna abruptly disappears, and Michael returns to his normal life. Almost a decade later, Michael is studying law, when he sees Hanna again; she is on trial for her crimes as an S.S. guard during the war. Michael is torn between a desire for justice and his knowledge of a secret that may save Hanna. The Reader makes full use of hindsight and historical perspective. Based on the bestselling novel by Bernhard Schlink, the story is framed by an older Michael (Ralph Fiennes) who deals with both his personal history and the collective past--and guilt--of the German people. This is a complex film that doesn't give the audience any easy answers; Hanna is undoubtedly guilty of horrific crimes, but she is a multilayered character who is always fascinating and always human, thanks to the terrific performance of Winslet, who plays Hanna over four decades *Genius*

Animal Planet The Beauty of Snakes The Discovery Channel presents this definitive snake documentary to end all snake documentaries. No snake too large to approach (the king cobra), too small to ignore (the thread snake), or too unusual in locomotive behavior (the sidewinder) goes uncovered in this action-packed Who's Who of the slithery kingdom. *Genius*

Gettysburg The Battle and the Address Armed with a fresh approach, this enthralling documentary from the Discovery Channel revisits the bloodiest and most consequential battle of the Civil War and the months following, in which President Abraham Lincoln delivered one of the first great speeches of American history. Gettysburg: The Battle And The Address is both an accurate account that will please classic history buffs and an offering of the kind of insight on the subject rarely seen elsewhere. *Genius*

Fatal Attraction While his wife (Anne Archer) and daughter are out of town, successful attorney Dan Gallagher (Michael Douglas) has a one-night stand with Alex Forrest (Glenn Close), the publishing executive he has just met. He has no idea what he's getting into. Immediately after the encounter, Dan wants to put the experience behind him, but Alex refuses to let go of their relationship. Driven to madness by his rejection, she turns to violently harassing both Dan and his family. This terrifying morality play, which takes the consequences of infidelity to new heights of horror, became one of 1987's biggest box-office successes. Academy Award Nominations: 6, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actress--Glenn Close, Best Supporting Actress Anne Archer, Best (Adapted) Screenplay. *Paramount*