

reel deal



BE COOL

This sequel to the popular comedy, *Get Shorty*, continues the adventures of Chili Palmer (John Travolta). This time around, the notorious debt collector-turned-Hollywood film producer has given up on the movie industry. It's too fickle for his tastes, so he dives head first into the music industry to promote a struggling singer and hopefully turn her into a multi-platinum star. Of course, this wouldn't be a funny premise — unless that singer was being pursued by the Russian Mafia! The star-studded cast includes Uma Thurman, Christina Milian, André Benjamin (OutKast's André 3000), Cedric the Entertainer and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. In theaters this March.



RAY

By now we all know the big Hollywood news of the year — Jamie Foxx is one fine actor. With his star turns in *Redemption*, *Collateral* and *Ray*, Foxx has proved once and for all that he can handle duties as a cross-dressing comedian (*In Living Color's* Wanda) and a serious, focused thespian. If you've already seen this excellent portrayal of the late, great Ray Charles, then you know that it not only met the hype it was given, but surpassed it. If you haven't seen it yet, pick up this feature-loaded DVD now.

Two editions of this DVD have been released, each including: theatrical and extended cuts of *Ray*; uncut performances of "Hit the Road Jack" and "What Kind of Man Are You;" director's commentary; deleted scenes; trailers; and *Stepping Into the Part* and *Ray Remembered* documentaries. The limited edition gift set of the film includes even more uncut musical performances; *Filmmaker's Journey* documentary; and a 28-page photo journal.



STAR WARS: Clone Wars

This animated bridge between *Star Wars* Episodes II and III, directed by Genndy Tartakovsky (of *Samurai Jack* fame), proved so popular during its initial run on the Cartoon Network that it was brought back for a third "season." Collected on this DVD are the first 19 three-minute chapters and the extended five-minute chapter 20. This action-heavy series never lets up and is perfect for fans of the Star Wars franchise or cutting edge animation. If you think live-action Sammy L. was dope with his purple light saber, just wait 'til you see his cartoon-counterpart tear things up.

Extras include a fan commentary, a director commentary, a new featurette with George Lucas, a seven minute *Clone Wars Connections* featurette, an *Episode III* game trailer, a *Republic Commando* X-Box demo, a preview of the *Planetary Forces* PC game in the DVD-ROM features and still galleries.



FRESH PRINCE OF BEL-AIR: The Complete First Season

Okay, repeat after me: Now this is the story all about how/My life got flipped, turned upside down/And I'd like to take a minute, just sit right there/I'll tell you how I became the prince of a town called Bel-Air. Before Will Smith battled aliens and robots he battled sucka emcees as one-half of the legendary DJ Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince. The duo proved so popular in the rap game that they earned themselves a long-running and popular sitcom that's still in syndication. If you can't get enough of the *Fresh Prince* reruns, then this DVD set is definitely for you.

Featuring the first 25 episodes of the popular comedy series at a budget price (especially for a television box set), the DVD also includes *Back-to-Bel-Air: A Fresh Look*, which is a retrospective documentary with stars, producers and crew.



TAXI

We all know Queen Latifah is a beautiful and talented woman. She's proven herself time and time again through her music and her roles in television and film. On the other hand, we have Jimmy Fallon. Other than being a sort of pretty boy on *Saturday Night Live*, this guy had nothing going for him. He had to prove himself in Hollywood and what better way to do it than with Ms. Latifah in the American comedic version of the Luc Besson-written French film of the same name? This movie bombed in the box office — with good reason.

If you have absolutely nothing better to do with your life, pick up this atrocious excuse for film on DVD. It comes packed with a never-before-seen extended version of the film (more torture for the buck!) and the original theatrical version; deleted scenes; and five featurettes. Available wherever fine (and apparently — horrible) movies are sold.



MALCOLM X

X is a man every American needs to learn about. Sadly, plenty of Americans — young and old, black and white — have no clue as to just how important this leader was. What better way to be introduced to a civil rights icon than through the power of film? That was Spike Lee's intention when he created this masterpiece biopic. People called Lee crazy when he suggested that students skip school to check out his film, but the man had a point — these kids weren't learning about Malcolm X in their classrooms, so why not get introduced to his life and movement via film?

Previously released as an embarrassing barebones DVD, Spike Lee's (arguably) best work finally gets the attention it deserves with this superb two-disc set that everyone should own. Features include audio commentary by Spike Lee; the all-new documentary *By Any Means Necessary: The Making of Malcolm X*; 10 additional scenes with on-screen introductions by Lee; and the full 1972 Oscar-nominated documentary *Malcolm X*.



SOUNDZ OF SPIRIT

Finally available to the masses, this hip-hop documentary made its rounds in the indie and art film circuits, earning mad respect from all b-boys and b-girls. *Soundz of Spirit* goes all out to explain the creative process and spirituality behind hip-hop music using artists' own words. We get an in-depth look at rap, graffiti, DJing, breaking, poetry and the overall hip-hop community as the documentary presents us with interviews from the critically-respected likes of Andre 3000, KRS-One, Talib Kweli, Jurassic 5, Blackalicious, Dilated Peoples, Saul Williams, DJ Q-Bert and a slew of other underground hip-hop favorites.

Not slouching on extras like most other rush-job hip-hop documentaries on DVD, this set includes a 14-track CD featuring the film's original soundtrack; additional live performance footage; outtakes; and an interview with the director. Perfect for hip-hop purists, elitists or those who wish to learn more about the current underground scene.



HONEYMOONERS



In the (not-so) fine tradition of Hollywood turning classic television shows into feature-length films (*Addams Family*, *The Brady Bunch*, *Green Acres*, the upcoming *Bewitched*...) comes one of TV land's most historic couple, the Kramdens.

Aiming to win over an urban audience, the originally white characters have been substituted with the likes of Cedric the Entertainer, Gabrielle Union (as Ralph and Alice Kramden), Mike Epps and Regina Hall (as Ed and Trixie Norton). The plot centers around Ralph and Ed's get-rich-quick scheme that will hopefully get them out of their Brooklyn 'hood, but things go wrong and (supposed) hilarity ensues. Will television's best known bus driver and his scrawny sewer worker friend get themselves out of this mess or will Jackie Gleason and Art Carney backflip in their graves over this "re-envisioning?" In the immortal words of Ralph Kramden, "One of these days..." In theaters this July.



Win

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