

FRONT PAGE	POLITICS	BUSINESS	MEDIA	ENTERTAINMENT	COMEDY	SPORTS	STYLE	WORLD	GREEN	FOOD	TRAVEL	TECH	
LIVING	HEALTH	DIVORCE	ARTS	BOOKS	RELIGION	IMPACT	EDUCATION	COLLEGE	NY	LA	CHICAGO	DENVER	BLOGS



Michael Giltz

Freelance writer and raconteur

Posted: October 31, 2009 06:26 PM



BIO



Get Email Alerts



Become a Fan



Bloggers' Index

Boo! Scary New DVDs To Rent And Buy

Read More: [Dvds](#), [Halloween](#), [Scary Movies](#), [Entertainment News](#)



WHAT'S YOUR REACTION?

- Inspiring
- Funny
- Hot
- Scary
- Outrageous
- Amazing
- Weird
- Crazy

0

views

SHARE

0

retweet

Buzz

Get Breaking News Alerts

never spam

Share

Print

Comments

Heading out to the video store and looking for some DVDs to rent or buy? Here's a roundup of recent releases. You can always, of course, rent *The Bride Of Frankenstein* or *Psycho*. But why not take a gander at these less obvious choices?



DRAG ME TO HELL (\$29.98 and \$39.98 BluRay; Universal) -- Until *Paranormal Activities* came out, this was unquestionably the most notable horror film of the year. It's still probably the best reviewed. Universal had unreasonable expectations for this B movie horror fest in the best Sam Raimi tradition about Alison Lohman getting cursed by a nasty old woman. At \$80 million worldwide and a long DVD history ahead of it, it's a strong performer for the genre. And it might be the perfect break for Raimi so he can get his Spidey sense tingling again.

ORPHAN (\$28.98 or \$35.99 on BluRay; Warner Bros.) -- I'm not sure why it is -- I'm not adopted myself -- but I have a serious aversion to films where adopted children turn out to be the spawn of hell/untrustworthy/ungrateful/just plain mean. Seriously, if people listened to Hollywood, it would be a miracle if a single kid was ever taken into someone's home ever again. Even a top-notch cast -- Peter Sarsgaard and Vera Farmiga -- can't gussy this one up into anything beyond it's predictable arc of the orphan from hell (though in this case, that's hardly a cliché).

P (\$19.95; Palisades Tartan/Asia Extreme) -- Only hardcore fans of horror would know about the distinction between Thai horror and, say, Korean horror. I'm not one of them. But this entry about a young girl taught the dark arts who is forced into working at a go-go club (not a good combination if

ADVERTISEMENT

SPONSORED BY

MOST POPULAR ON HUFFPOST ◀ 1 of 2 ▶

Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Passes Senate Procedural Vote

Like 40K

Don't Miss Tonight's Rare Full Moon Eclipse

Like 37K

Sarah Palin Jabs Michelle Obama's Anti-Obesity Campaign

Like 5K

AI Franken The Most Important Free Speech Issue of Our Time

Like 10K

PHOTOS: 10 Things We've Accidentally Learned From Crime Dramas

Like 1K

Timothy Karr Obama FCC Caves on Net Neutrality -- Tuesday...

Like 7K

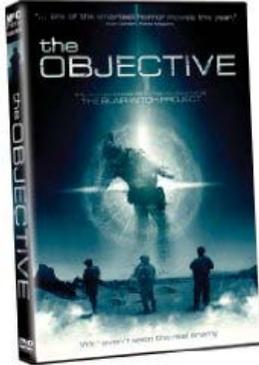
PHOTOS: 13 Products Most Likely To Be Made By Child Or Forced Labor

Recommend 3K

John Boehner Strikes Back

you're a customer) is a cut above.

WILLIAM CASTLE FILM COLLECTION (\$80.95; Sony) -- If you're like me and you enjoy being scared (but not that much) and don't really care for gore (even a little) this boxed set is for you. Castle is more of a Barnum-type showman than a good director, so the eight flicks in this set (along with a substantial documentary about Castle himself). His promotions were often better than the films themselves. One tagline said: "If it frightens you to death, you'll be buried free of charge!" But *The Tingler* with Vincent Price, the ridiculous *13 Ghosts*, and Joan Crawford in *Strait-Jacket* are all good for a laugh when they don't spook you. Decent extras scattered throughout.



THE OBJECTIVE (\$19.98; IFC/MPI) -- On the off chance that your main desire is to actually see a good movie, give *The Objective* a shot. A Special Forces team is sent into the mountains of Afghanistan after a rogue cleric when they stumble upon an ancient evil. It's a genuine B movie that garnered some good reviews for the clever premise and a relatively unknown cast (Jon Huertas, Matt Anderson) that keeps you blissfully unaware of who might survive. From Daniel Myrick, the director of *The Blair Witch Project* and a man who might have some useful tips for the folks behind *Paranormal Activity*.

TALES FROM THE DARKSIDE SEASON TWO (\$39.99; Paramount) -- Maybe you prefer your horror in bite-sized bits? This anthology series from the mid-Eighties -- like most anthology TV shows -- featured actors on their way up or on their way down and directors who loved the genre or couldn't get any other type of work. Invariably, there are some standouts in the 24 episodes, though the show is far from a classic. It doesn't help that music rights proved too expensive and they have reportedly rescored half the episodes. Anyone who's actually a fan of the show and remembers the originals will undoubtedly feel cheated.

THE CRAFT (\$24.95 on BluRay; Sony) -- An obvious precursor to the hit TV series *Charmed*, this is a goofier, nastier spin closer to *Heathers* with the outcasts of a high school ready to use dark magic to get their revenge and to hell with the consequences (not to mention their souls). Fairuza Balk has fun and Robin Tunney will be a draw for fans of the TV show *The Mentalist*. But it's Neve Campbell who anchors this silliness with by taking it all very seriously.



THE GATE MONSTROUS SPECIAL EDITION (\$19.98; LionsGate) -- Long available only in a cropped version, this cult hit from 1987 is finally offered in widescreen in what appears to be a newly remastered print with the usual extras like a commentary track and brief making-of featurettes. A young Stephen Dorff stars in this tale of kids who unintentionally open a gate to hell, releasing some demons who wreck serious havoc in their town. Like *Gremlins* (but less satirical), it's genuinely scary but meant for teens and is not particularly violent.

THE KILLING ROOM (\$19.95; Genius) -- If you find the horror-porn of *Saw* unpleasant, you might

Against Sarah Palin

[f Like](#) 248

Amanda Knox Court Makes Crucial Ruling

[f Like](#) 155

DON'T MISS HUFFPOST BLOGGERS [◀ 1 of 5 ▶](#)



Billie Jean King

[Repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell Is a Big Deal](#)



Al Franken

[The Most Important Free Speech Issue of Our Time](#)

HOT TRENDS

amber portwood giuliana and bill johnston in playgirl miley cyrus lap dance video sarah palin michelle obama

People.com



Ask Steven Tyler a Question!

[READ MORE ▶](#)



Missing Showgirl's Boyfriend Abused Her, Police Say

[READ MORE ▶](#)



James Van Der Beek Introduces Daughter Olivia

[READ MORE ▶](#)

[More Celebrity News at People.com](#)

Popeater.com



The Top Entertainment News Stories of 2010



'Biggest Loser' Ada Talks Popularity, Parents



Lisa and Harry Trying for Another Baby?

[More Celebrity News at Popeater.com](#)

enjoy this classier spin on the same idea. Timothy Hutton and Chloe Sevigny are two of four people who agree to be part of a research project that turns deadly when they're locked in a white room and told only one can come out alive. Debuted at Sundance and sort of worth the ride.

THE HAUNTED AIRMAN (\$24.98; EI) -- Maybe horror is just an excuse for you to clutch your date's arm? Then this romantic ghost story may be just the ticket. Robert Pattinson (now where have I heard of him before?) stars as a British WW II soldier who is wounded and sent to a rambling old mansion to recuperate, only to be haunted by ghosts! Better than vampires, I suppose. Julian Sands (always reliably creepy even if he's playing a good guy) and Rachael Stirling costar.

LEFT BANK (\$24.98; IFC/MPI) -- Roman Polanski may not be working for a while, but this spin on *Rosemary's Baby* should keep him uppermost in the mind of horror buffs. In it, a world-class runner (Eline Kuppens) is forced to stop training and recuperate from a knee infection. She impulsively moves in with her boyfriend Bobby, a handsome member of an archery club that has been around since the Middle Ages and...well, ancient groups with medieval ties never have an athlete's best interests at heart.

SCARE TACTICS SEASON THREE PART ONE (\$29.98; Warner Bros.) -- OK, you don't really want to be scared at all, but you don't mind if OTHER people get scared. Then dig into the SyFy (god, I hate that new name) prank show built around horror and sci-fi angles. Hosted by Tracy Morgan, you can watch as a babysitter finds a psycho invading her home, a freakish creature gets loose in a lab and so on. For the folks who think there's not enough screaming during America's Funniest Home Videos.

--30--

Thanks for reading. [Visit Michael Giltz at his website](#) and his [daily blog](#). Download his [podcast of celebrity interviews at Popsurfing](#) and enjoy the weekly pop culture podcast he co-hosts [at Showbiz Sandbox](#). Both available for free on iTunes. [Link to him on Netflix](#) and gain access to thousands of ratings and reviews.

NOTE TO READERS: I was provided with a final copy of every DVD reviewed in this column. In fact, I refuse to review DVDs based on streaming videos available online or advance DVD test discs since it's impossible to verify the quality of the picture, sound, menus, extras and other features that way. I receive many more DVDs each week than I could ever cover and typically, I don't guarantee coverage for any DVD that is sent to me, merely that I will consider it for coverage.

This Blogger's Books from

[amazon.com](#)

Billie Jean is King: the ultimate athlete was 32 years old and closeted when transgender Renee Richards sued for the right to play pro tennis against women. ... (The national gay & lesbian newsmagazine)
by Michael Giltz



Second set: for transgender tennis star Renee Richards, the generation gap looms larger than the gender gap. Her latest book, No Way Renee, continues the ... (The national gay & lesbian newsmagazine)
by Michael Giltz

Follow Michael Giltz on Twitter: www.twitter.com/michaelgiltz

WHAT'S YOUR REACTION?

Inspiring Funny Hot Scary Outrageous Amazing Weird Crazy

More in Entertainment...

TOP VIDEO PICKS

1 of 10



Vince Vaughn's New Bundle of Joy



Paris Hilton's Biker Blunder



Scarlett and Ryan's Dinner Date

MOST DISCUSSED RIGHT NOW



Tracy Morgan Undergoes Kidney Transplant
86 Comments



PHOTOS: Paris Hilton Dons Leather Bodysuit
128 Comments

HOT ON FACEBOOK



Guess Who Got A Tattoo Of Her Daughter
750 Comments



Pantsless Chloe Sevigny 'Needs Therapy' For Vincent Gallo Sex Scene
515 Comments

HOT ON TWITTER



Beneath the Feathers: What 'Black Swan' Says About Dancers
36 Comments



Nicolas Cage Buys Pyramid Tomb
135 Comments

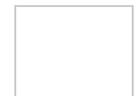
HUFFPOST'S BIG NEWS PAGES



NBA



Video



Poverty



Health



30 Rock



Immigration



Death & Dying



Islam



Christianity

Shania Twain Engaged To Frederic Thiebaud

'The Fighter' Star Amy Adams Talks Weight...

Megan Fox In A Bikini (PHOTOS)

Kardashian Christmas Card: The 'SNL' Spoof (VIDEO)

[MORE BIG NEWS PAGES »](#)

FOLLOW HUFFINGTON POST



Comments

0

Pending Comments

0

[View FAQ](#)

Comments are closed for this entry

[View All](#)

▼ Recency | Popularity

SEARCH

FRONT PAGE	POLITICS	BUSINESS	MEDIA	ENTERTAINMENT	COMEDY	SPORTS	STYLE	WORLD	GREEN	FOOD	TRAVEL	TECH	
LIVING	HEALTH	DIVORCE	ARTS	BOOKS	RELIGION	IMPACT	EDUCATION	COLLEGE	NY	LA	CHICAGO	DENVER	BLOGS

[Advertise](#) | [Log In](#) | [Make HuffPost your Home Page](#) | [RSS](#) | [Careers](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Contact Us](#)

[User Agreement](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Comment Policy](#) | [About Us](#) | [Powered by Movable Type](#)

Copyright © 2010 TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. | "The Huffington Post" is a registered trademark of TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. All rights reserved.