

August 29, 2012

HUFF POST ENTERTAINMENT

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DVDs: *Breaking Bad* Still Good

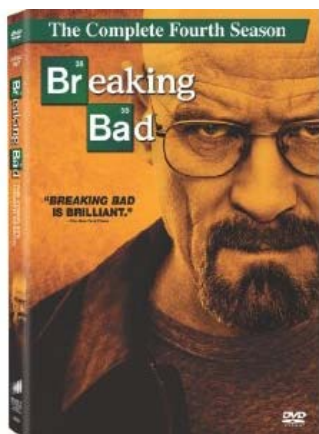
Posted: 06/24/2012 1:42 pm

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BREAKING BAD COMPLETE FOURTH SEASON (\$55.99 BluRay; Sony) -- It's the best show on TV. Bar none. Why aren't you watching?

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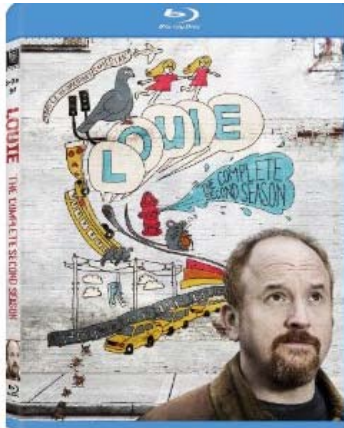


Deaf Boy Asked To Make Controversial Change (VIDEO)

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THE SARAH SILVERMAN PROGRAM COMPLETE SERIES (\$49.97; Shout) -- Silverman's TV show is off-beat (of course), offensive (at times), funny (always), and unique. Whether she's trying to marry her dog or suing the movie *Home Alone* (a personal favorite and I would have joined in on the lawsuit but I've never actually seen *Home Alone*), Silverman projects a naif attitude towards the world that is somehow both cynical and sweet. Shout presents the entire series with care, including bonus features like commentaries, the original pilot, a ComicCon appearance and more. If you like her, you'll like it.



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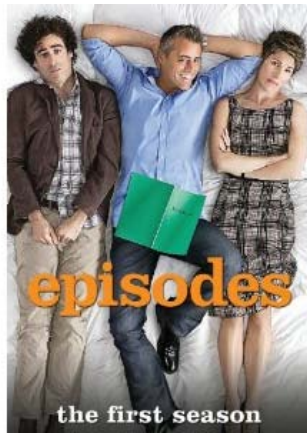
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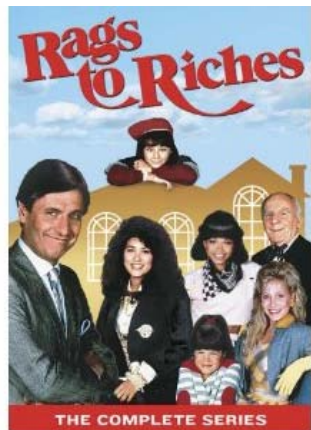
HOT ON FACEBOOK 1 of 3



WILFRED SEASON ONE (\$39.99 BluRay; Fox)

LOUIS SEASON TWO (\$39.99 BluRay; Fox)

EPISODES THE FIRST SEASON (\$29.98; Showtime/CBS) -- *Wilfred* is the story of a lonely guy (Elijah Wood) who imagines his neighbor's dog is talking to him. He sees the animal Wilfred as a lumpy, middle-aged guy with an Australian accent (Jason Gann), a walking, talking, crotch-sniffing id who pushes our hero to do stuff he'd never think of on his own. Sometimes the series goes off track into a mean and petty vein. But when the story stays focused on Ryan and Wilfred and we can see their odd couple friendship growing and each one making the other a better man/dog, there's precious little like it. Gann is quite funny but it is Wood's sad sack persona that anchors this series into the real world and makes it not just funny but affecting. Louie C.K. is the star of his own sitcom, another thoroughly original blend of skewed observations on the world, a backdoor peek into stand-up and despite itself, occasional warmth. Finally, Matt LeBlanc has fun trashing his own image -- as well as Hollywood -- in *Episodes*, the story of a British writing team who get a chance to take their Britcom and bring it to America. The sitcom is in very good health indeed.



LANCELOT LINK: SECRET CHIMP COLLECTOR'S EDITION (\$24.98; Film Chest)

RAGS TO RICHES COMPLETE SERIES (\$29.98; Image) -- I'm sorry, did you say a TV spy spoof starring chimpanzees and apes and the such? Not a human in sight? The sets built to 3/4 size so this world of monkeys would be as convincing as possible? The most expensive kids show in history, up to that time? No, it's not an acid trip, it's *Lancelot Link*, that very show dimly remembered by kids in the



Madonna's Message For Americans: 'Don't Get Fat And Lazy'



WATCH: Raging Grannies Have Some Words For Todd Akin

HOT ON TWITTER

1 of 2



ricky_martin
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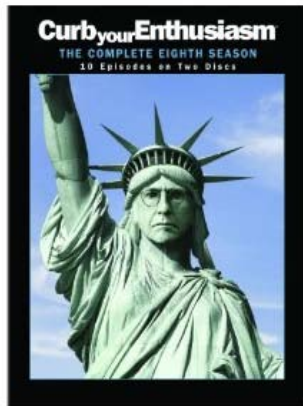
NFL

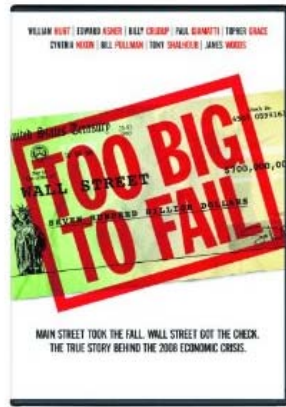


Custody and Child Support

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early 1970s. It's by no means good, but by God it's unusual and we're finally getting the entire 17 episodes in nice, cleaned up fashion. For the final psychedelic touch, the show also featured musical numbers with our spy chimps rocking out. Yes, The Monkeys. Literally. The primetime series *Rags To Riches* centers on businessman Joseph Bologna who needs to burnish up his public image. Naturally, he adopts five orphan girls and they turn his world upside down. Unexpectedly, there are also musical numbers, which happily were classics from the 1960s and earlier, rather than original tunes. That probably held up the DVD release (music rights are the reason we still can't watch *The Wonder Years*) so it's nice to see the entire series available on DVD. It's not a particularly good show from 1987, but I'm a firm believer everything should be available in some form so it's a welcome release. Now where's *Cop Rock*?



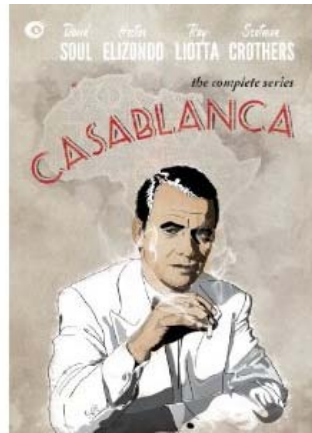


TRUE BLOOD SEASON FOUR 9\$79.98 BluRay; HBO)

CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM SEASON EIGHT (\$39.98; HBO)

ENTOURAGE EIGHTH SEASON (\$39.98; HBO)

TOO BIG TO FAIL (\$19.97; HBO) -- I hate to say it. I've resisted it because money is tight. But I think HBO has become an essential purchase again. *Entourage* is walking into the sunset (bye, you lovable Hollywood playas and wannabes). But here is just a new batch of HBO shows: the red hot *True Blood*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm* (which some fans are now scandalously claiming is even better than *Seinfeld*), and TV movies like the Wall Street scandal *Too Big To Fail*, with HBO's usual stellar cast. Throw in *Game Of Thrones*, *Veep*, *Girls*, *Real Time With Bill Maher* and now *The Newsroom* and darnit if HBO has become a must-have again.



CASABLANCA THE COMPLETE SERIES (\$39.95; Olive) -- Even as a 17 year old kid, I was scandalized when NBC launched a TV drama prequel to *Casablanca*, one of the greatest films of all time. But at least they attempted this doomed-to-fail enterprise with a top-notch production. They recreated the sets of the film beautifully (the show received two Emmy nominations and won for Cinematography) and delivered a strong cast including Scatman Crothers, Ray Liotta, Hector Elizondo and David Soul as Rick. (Since the show was a prequel, no one had to be cast to play Ingrid Bergman, who at the time of the film was perhaps the most beautiful woman in the world). It ran for five episodes, with NBC very tentatively beginning the run in April of 1983, about the oddest time to launch a new series one can think of back in those days. It is a curiosity now and would make an excellent bonus feature on a deluxe boxed set celebrating the movie. On its own, it's strictly for completists, though if you pretend it's not actually *Casablanca* but just a TV series, it was quite ambitious and had some promise. Such a bad idea -- and not the first time it had been acted on. There was an earlier TV series in 1955 that ran for ten episodes, and several musical adaptations have been tackled over the years. But no one really wants to hear Rick break into song, do they?



FALLING SKIES FIRST SEASON (\$49.99 BluRay; Warner Bros.)

DOCTOR WHO RESURRECTION OF THE DALEKS (\$34.98; BBC/Warner Bros.)

THE SARAH JANE ADVENTURES SEASON FIVE (\$19.98; BBC/Warner Bros.) -- Steven

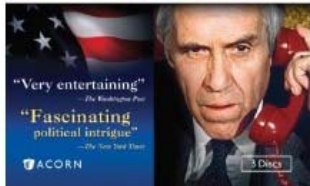
Spielberg's *Falling Skies* is a heartfelt family drama with an alien invasion as the backdrop. That is both the show's strength and failing, though Noah Wylie anchors the series nicely. Hopefully, the action will pick up a bit in season two. Having just watched the classic British drama *All Creatures Great And Small*, I especially looked forward to seeing costar Peter Davison (who played a ladies' man of an animal veterinarian) as the good Doctor. The BBC loads up these multi-episode collections telling one long story with excellent bonus features. But this is still absurdly over-priced at just 90 minutes (though they do contain the slightly longer, rarer four part version which -- oh, if you're a *Who* fan you probably know and if you're not you don't care). Good silly fun. Sarah Jane has always been the most popular companion for the Doctor and she finally got her own series. *Doctor Who* has always been family fare but the recent reboot tilts slightly more adult and mature whereas this spin-off is definitely geared to kiddies. Sadly, the star Elizabeth Sladden died suddenly during the filming of this season and the show has ceased production, so this is the final goodbye for Sarah Jane.



CLIFF ROBERTSON • JASON ROBARDS • STEFANIE POWERS

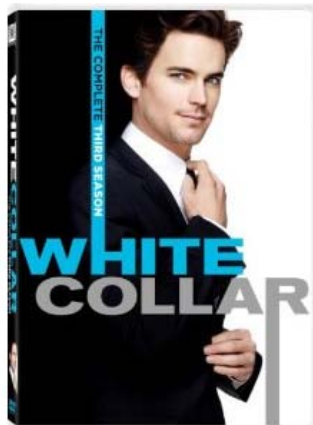


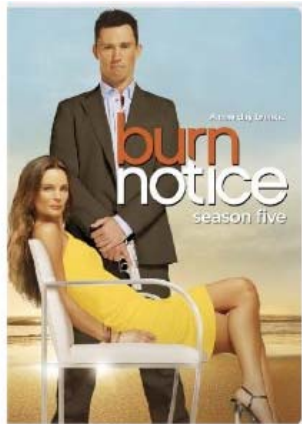
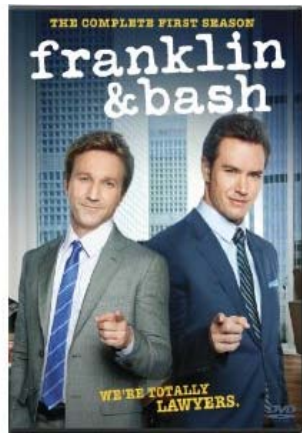
WASHINGTON BEHIND CLOSED DOORS



DAMAGES COMPLETE FOURTH SEASON (\$45.99; Sony)

WASHINGTON: BEHIND CLOSED DOORS (\$59.99; Acorn) -- Glenn Close continues to tear it up in the legal drama *Damages*. But you're only as good as your client or opponent and Close has a juicy one with John Goodman as the corrupt CEO of a security firm doing business in Afghanistan. (It's clearly inspired by the controversial firm Blackwater, which has now redubbed itself the hilarious inapt Academi.) Goodman always tears into good dramatic roles when given the chance and doesn't disappoint here. A similar tale of power and corruption can be enjoyed in the 1977 miniseries *Washington: Behind Closed Doors*, based on John Ehrlichman's post-Watergate novel *The Company*. He knew something about paranoid presidents and this nearly 10-hour miniseries has a lot of fun, thanks to a stellar cast that includes Jason Robards, Cliff Robertson, John Houseman, Robert Vaughn, Stefanie Powers and Andy Griffith. It's down and dirty rather than lavish like *Shogun* or *The Holocaust* but it's still fun.





WHITE COLLAR COMPLETE THIRD SEASON (\$39.98; Fox)

FRANKLIN & BASH FIRST SEASON (\$45.99; Sony)

BURN NOTICE SEASON FIVE (\$49.98; Fox)

TOP GEAR COMPLETE SEASON 18 (\$24.98; BBC) -- I love boundary pushing, provocative television. But sometimes you just want to zone out. That doesn't mean you want something stupid and with the right charismatic cast and clever than average scripts, junk food television that you can dip into anytime without worrying about complicated story lines can be just the thing. *White Collar* is a sterling example, thanks to devilishly handsome leading man Matt Bomer (almost the perfect name) as a con man-turned-FBI consultant. Bomer should be answering calls from Hollywood when they want a new leading man but for the moment he's having great fun here. "We're totally lawyers" is a great tagline that perfectly captures the appeal of *Franklin & Bash*, a buddy show about two dudes who practice law. Stars Breckin Meyer and Mark-Paul Gosselaar have excellent chemistry. Toss in Malcolm McDowell into the mix and you've got yourself a breezy bit of fun. Ditto *Burn Notice*, which had so much long-anticipated action (our hero returned to the CIA -- briefly -- faced down the person who burned him and so on) that it almost felt like a series finale. They're back for a sixth season, however, so catch up if you want. Unlike the other shows, this one does have a serious overarching plot but you can still enjoy it week to week. Finally, *Top Gear* always gets compared to the radio show *Car Talk* because they both entertain even if you don't give a hoot about cars. This set contains the entire 18th season (including the India special and a look at China's automotive industry) plus an episode from the U.S. spin-off. With *Car Talk* fading into permanent reruns, this is the last refuge for gearheads.

Most titles listed here will be available in multiple formats and in multiple combinations, including DVD, Blu-ray, digital download, video on demand, streaming and the like. The format listed is the format provided for review, not all the formats available. It is often the most expensive version with the most extras. Do check individual titles for availability in all their various guises and price points.

Thanks for reading. Michael Giltz is the cohost of [Showbiz Sandbox](#), a weekly pop culture podcast that reveals the industry take on entertainment news of the day and features top journalists and opinion makers as guests. It's [available](#) for free on iTunes. Visit Michael Giltz at his [website](#) and his [daily blog](#). Download his podcast of celebrity interviews and his radio show, also called Popsurfing and also [available](#) for free on iTunes. Link to him on Netflix and [gain](#) access to thousands of ratings and reviews.

Note: Michael Giltz is provided with free copies of DVDs and Blu-rays with the understanding that he would be considering them for review. Generally, he does not guarantee to review and he receives far more titles than he can cover.

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Abe Schwartz: Eight Things About 'Curb Your Enthusiasm' With Executive Producer Tim Gibbons

One of the biggest problems on set is actors cracking up. Whether it's Larry David collecting himself after a J.B. Smoove one-liner or Ted Danson having to hold back giggles after a Richard Lewis facial expression, it's not uncommon for the crew to have to wait several minutes until the hilarity subsides.

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LSRules

20 Fans

10:01 AM on 06/25/2012

I figured I'd blindly check out the first episode of Episodes. SO glad I did! The show is great and the season finale was laugh out loud funny (I'm not a loud laugher).

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The Mighty Pathos

54 Fans

09:30 AM on 06/25/2012

Coincidentally, I just watched the premier episode of Breaking Bad...last night.

I'm hooked.

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HUFFPOST BLOGGER
Michael Giltz
freelance writer
127 Fans

02:21 PM on 06/26/2012

Terrific. I don't think you'll be disappointed. Hasn't missed a beat since day one.

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sabelmouse
i love to tumble , ask me why .
693 Fans

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05:57 AM on 06/25/2012

hing brba at the beginning of s4 because it was sooooo boring. i might pick up the dvd once they're super cheap or watch it on netfix.

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LSRules
20 Fans

10:00 AM on 06/25/2012

To each their own, but if you thought "Box Cutter" (S4E1) was boring, Breaking Bad isn't a show for you.
"Well, get back to work."

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sabelmouse
i love to tumble , ask me why .
693 Fans

This user has chosen to opt out of the Badges program

10:21 AM on 06/25/2012

i loved the first 3 seasons.

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Craig 212
Tide goes in, tide goes out.
910 Fans

This user has chosen to opt out of the Badges program

10:12 PM on 06/24/2012

I don't know that I'd say Breaking Bad is the best show -bar none-.

Mad Men is great. And while BrBa's season 4 wasn't as good as season 3 (in my opinion), Mad Men's season 5 was its best season so far (again, in my opinion).

Game of Thrones and Boardwalk Empire are also magnificent. And on the BBC, there's Sherlock and Luther.

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sabelmouse
i love to tumble , ask me why .
693 Fans

This user has chosen to opt out of the Badges program

06:00 AM on 06/25/2012

i've yet to see the last 5 epsodes of mad men. the last season kinda lost me. meanwhile i'm rewatching the partridge family and i'm thoroughly enjoying it. i'm convinced that the could bring about world peace.

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