

DVDS



'BRICK'



# HITS TO

The top DVDs come into focus

BY MICHAEL GILTZ

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# REWIND

What makes a great DVD? It isn't just a great movie or TV show from the past year that you've waited to own or view at home. Though it usually starts with some great work, a DVD gives you revealing and entertaining extras. And, sometimes, it just reveals how great an old favorite was.

**"SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE": THE COMPLETE FIRST SEASON** (\$69.98, Universal) Yes, it actually was as funny as you remember. One of the greatest casting jobs in history: Chase, Radner, Aykroyd, Curtin, Morris, Newman and Belushi. Amazing.

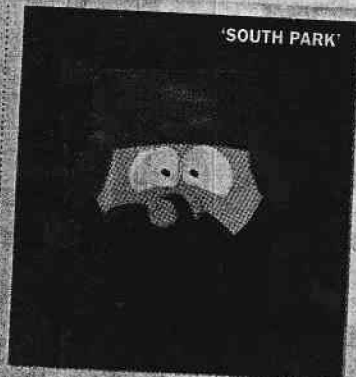
**"JOHN WAYNE/JOHN FORD FILM COLLECTION"** (\$79.98, Warner Bros.) Eight movies, including six undeniable classics: two-thirds of the cavalry trilogy, the clear-eyed war movie "They Were Expendable," the great action film "Stagecoach" and, for anyone who still thinks Wayne couldn't act, "The Searchers." One of Hollywood's great teams.

**"HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL": ENCORE EDITION** (\$26.99, Disney) Oh, just give in. The songs aren't as good, but this TV movie phenomenon truly is the "Grease" for a whole new generation.

**"BRICK"** (\$29.98, Universal) DVD is perfect for catching a movie like this one, which fell through the cracks. This high school noir, with Joseph Gordon-Levitt as a hard-bitten loner just trying to find the girl who dumped him, is a gem right down to its cynical ending.

**"THE ODD COUPLE": THE COMPLETE FIRST SEASON** (\$29.99, Time-Life) / **"POLICE SQUAD! THE COMPLETE SERIES"** (\$19.99, Paramount) At last! "The Odd Couple" has one of the great comedy duos (Tony Randall and Jack Klugman) finally getting their due. (The DVD is only available at TimeLife.com.) And the six episodes of "Police Squad!" are far funnier than the movies the show spawned.

**"DAZED AND CONFUSED"** (\$39.95, Criterion) Another example of brilliant casting. Richard Linklater's look at the last day of high school in 1976 gets better every time you watch



'SOUTH PARK'

it. Wonderful extras include loads of behind-the-scenes footage, a good documentary and a booklet designed like a yearbook.

**"SOUTH PARK": THE HITS VOL. 1—MATT AND TREY'S TOP TEN** (\$26.99, Paramount) Ten episodes (along with four bonus shows and the original online short that sparked it all) from the last few years.

**"REDS": 25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION** (\$19.99, Paramount) The shock over a big-budget Hollywood film celebrating a Communist has faded, and what's left is a surprisingly traditional and effective epic romance. Certainly Warren Beatty's masterpiece.

**"THE OFFICE": SEASON TWO** (\$49.98, Universal) An American remake of the brilliant, utterly unique British series "The Office"? This season is where that started to look like a good one. Excellent extras include all the webisodes, commentary tracks, deleted scenes, fake PSAs and Michael's (Steve Carell) "The Faces of Scranton" movie.

**"THE ARISTOCRATS"** (\$29.99, Velocity/ThinkFilm) This hilarious documentary about the world's filthiest joke — filled with comics, directed by Paul Provenza and spearheaded by Penn Jillette — is a must-see on DVD: Pausing to rewind is the only way you can hear the jokes above your own laughter. Plus, repeated viewing reveals how carefully crafted this casual-seeming film truly is.

**"VERONICA MARS": COMPLETE SECOND SEASON** (\$59.98, Warner Bros.) Here's a show that got better on DVD. Everyone loves Kristen Bell's modern-day Nancy Drew, but the mystery in season two dragged a little. It all plays better when you race through the 22 episodes.

**"PLANET OF THE APES": ULTIMATE DVD COLLECTION** (\$179.98, Fox) Maybe it's the ape-head packaging that seems over the top, but this is one scarily complete collection, with all the original movies, the Tim Burton remake and both the live action and animated TV shows.

**THE COMPLETE "MR. ARKADIN"** (\$49.95, Criterion) Here's a multi-identity project "Arkadin" director Orson Welles could appreciate: Two theatrical versions, a new comprehensive cut, three episodes of the radio play

