

Film music that scored

Great soundtracks that matched sight and sound BY MICHAEL GILTZ

A great film score doesn't always equal a great soundtrack. (Do you really want to listen to the John Williams music for "Jaws" while driving home?) And sometimes a bad movie can produce a great soundtrack. ("Streets of Fire," anyone?). So, after you buy the "Dreamgirls" CD, here are the best soundtracks and scores released in 2006 — the CDs you'll actually want to listen to after the movie is over.

■ **"LEONARD COHEN: I'M YOUR MAN"** This concert film tribute to the Canadian musical bard was peopled by curator Hal Willner with built-to-endure talents like Antony, U2 and Rufus Wainwright. Among many highlights, Teddy Thompson's aching "Tonight Will Be Fine" stands out.

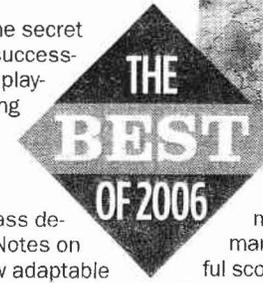
■ **"LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE"** The secret weapon in this indie comedy's successful run at the box office was the playful score of Mychael Danna, along with Sufjan Stevens and super-freak Rick James thrown in for good measure.

■ **"THE ILLUSIONIST"** Philip Glass delivers a more typical score for "Notes on a Scandal," but here proves how adaptable his distinctive, increasingly romantic style is.

■ **"SING-A-LONGS & LULLABIES FOR THE FILM 'CURIOUS GEORGE'"** No other movie soundtrack united the entire family the way this amiable work did, thanks to mellow surfer-musician Jack Johnson, songs like "Upside Down" and friends like rockers the White Stripes.

■ **"THE PROPOSITION"** Nick Cave and Warren Ellis of the Bad Seeds deliver the eeriest, most provocative score for a Western since Neil Young's music for "Dead Man." Spooky.

■ **"A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION" DELUXE EDITION** Garrison Keillor, Lily Tomlin, Woody Harrelson and Meryl Streep all shine as performers in Robert Altman's final film. The bonus DVD contains even more treasures.



THE MONKEY SHINES
"Curious George" had swingin' tunes.

■ **"THE FOUNTAIN"** Audiences may have been confused by this romantic sci-fi-fantasy, but the mournful score by Clint Mansell (with help from Kronos Quartet and Mogwai) won't be denied.

■ **"BABEL"** The globe-trotting movie has an appropriately globe-trotting soundtrack with moody film music by Gustavo Santaolalla alongside Japanese pop and a good helping of norteño.

■ **"VOLVER"** Pedro Almodóvar's long-term collaboration with composer Alberto Iglesias is the most fruitful in cinema since Federico Fellini stayed faithful to Nino Rota.

■ **"BREAKFAST ON PLUTO"** An eccentric, winning collection of offbeat pop songs, like Harry Nilsson's "Me and My Arrow," the title tune by Don Partridge and even, yes, Morris Albert's "Feelings," which takes on creepy connotations after you've seen the film. ♦