

## This week's DVDs

By MICHAEL GILTZ



Weisz and Fiennes really grow on you in "The Constant Gardener."

### The Constant Gardener

☆☆½  
Universal, \$29.98

THIS thriller about evil pharmaceutical companies proves director Fernando Meirelles (of "City of God") is no one-hit wonder. Similarly, Rachel Weisz is sexily committed to the Cause of Justice. But the show belongs to Ralph Fiennes, who does his best work in years as a diffident diplomat radicalized by his wife.

### Dead Poets Society

☆☆☆  
Touchstone, \$19.99

NOMINALLY a Robin Williams vehicle — he even got an Oscar nomination — this story of an inspiring teacher at a boys school really belongs to the students, especially Ethan Hawke as a stutterer and Robert Sean Leonard as the romantic figure crushed down by his overbearing father (Kurtwood Smith). Maybe that's why Williams couldn't be bothered to contribute to the extras, including a making-of, raw takes, and audio commentary.

### Hustle & Flow

☆☆½  
Paramount, \$29.95

TERRENCE Howard is memorable as a pimp turned would-be rapper. So why do viewers mostly remember his stable of girls? Paula Jai Parker is great as a pushy whore. Taraji P. Henson is delightful as Shug, moved beyond words when she hears her own singing. And Taryn Manning is terrific as Nola, desperate to be useful at something. Extras include commentary from writer/director Craig Brewer.



Howard (right) has a stable of lovely ladies in "Hustle & Flow."

**Also out:** Ingmar Bergman's unforgettable swan song "Saraband" (Sony; \$29.95)

36

nypost.com

New York Post, Sunday, January 1, 2006

## This week's DVDs

By MICHAEL GILTZ



The peerless Bill Murray in Jim Jarmusch's "Broken Flowers"

### Broken Flowers

☆☆☆  
Universal, \$29.98

BILL Murray is pretty hard to resist in this low-key charmer about a lonely millionaire who tracks down his former girlfriends. A great bunch of gals (including a woozy Sharon Stone and a dippy Jessica Lange) combine with a sweet finale to make this director Jim Jarmusch's most accessible film. Extras include a making-of documentary.

### Wedding Crashers R-Rated Edition

☆☆½  
New Line, \$28.98

ENOUGH already! Every R-rated comedy seems hell-bent on releasing two DVDs — one with the theatrical version and another "outrageous" version with extra scenes worked in. Comedies are rarely better with more scenes (the original version could have used some trims, frankly). But why make fans choose? Just include all the deleted scenes in the ... wait for it ... deleted scenes section and be done with it. Extras include audio commentary with Vince Vaughn and Owen Wilson.

### All in the Family, Fifth Season

☆☆½  
Sony, \$29.95

CLASSIC TV is always timely. How else to explain the coincidence that this season begins with four episodes of Archie and his union going on strike? (It doesn't end well for him.) This is also the season where the Jeffersons left for their own spin-off, so it's all downhill from here. No extras and the picture quality is so-so, but the show is still a champ.

**Also out:** TV's gentlest host gets his due with "The Merv Griffin Show: 40 of the Most Interesting People of All Time" (Alpha; \$29.98); fine singing in "The Gospel" (Sony; \$28.95); and an even dumber version of "Dumb & Dumber Unrated Edition" (New Line; \$19.98).

81

nypost.com

New York Post, Sunday, December 18, 2005

## 10 BEST DVDS



A GEM: "The Incredibles."

By MICHAEL GILTZ

### 1 The Harold Lloyd Comedy Collection

New Line, \$89.98

A comic legend always mentioned in the same breath with Chaplin and Keaton. Now we know why. Dozens of films and shorts barely leave you enough time to check out Lloyd's personal 3-D photos (glasses included).

### 2 The Incredibles

Disney, \$29.99

A real gem, and one movie you won't mind the kids playing over and over again. The delightful Oscar-nominated short "Boundin'" is the prize among the many extras.

### 3 King Kong

Warner, \$39.98

One of the last major movies to finally make its DVD debut, the 1933 classic does it in style, thanks to super-fan Peter Jackson. Jackson's making-of documentary is an astonishing 2 hours and 40 minutes long — and utterly fascinating.

### 4 Ran

Criterion, \$39.95

As always, virtually everything from Criterion is essential, but special kudos for making this Akira Kurosawa masterpiece look better than ever. Director Chris Marker's 74-minute documentary "A.K." is worthy of the master.



MASTERPIECE: "Gallipoli."

### 5 Gallipoli: Special Edition

Paramount, \$14.98

An anti-war masterpiece breaks your heart thanks to director Peter Weir and Mel Gibson. The documentary "Entrenched: The Making Of 'Gallipoli'" gives this breakthrough its due.