

## This week's DVDs

By MICHAEL GILTZ

### Family Guy: Vol. 3

★ ★ 1/2  
Fox, \$39.98

YOU can't keep a good man down. Massive DVD sales brought back "Family Guy," with this season's new episodes available here. But creator Seth MacFarlane has divided his time between it and "American Dad," leaving the joke quotient thin and softening the evil-genius baby. Let Stewie be Stewie!

### Murderball

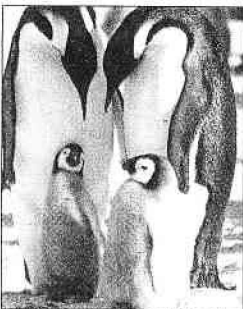
★ ★ ★ 1/2  
Thinkfilm, \$29.99

YES, this is a documentary about wheelchair athletes competing in paraplegic rugby. But forget phrases like "inspiring" and "moving." "Murderball" is profane, funny, raucous and exciting right down to the Paralympic finale's Yankee-Canuck grudge match. Good extras include commentary, an MTV "Jackass" special and player updates.

### March of the Penguins

★ ★  
Warner Bros., \$28.98

PEOPLE love penguins, and most people loved "March of the Penguins," a rather routine "documentary." The French original was a fictional story with actors dubbing dialog. Unfortunately, that's not available on the DVD, which includes the banal U.S. version, a Looney Tunes cartoon and lots of shots of shivering emperor penguins.



MARCH: Fowl-feathered friends.

### The Muppet Movie: Kermit's 50th Anniversary Edition

★ ★ ★  
Disney, \$19.99

THE Muppets' delightful 1979 feature film debut boasts all-star cameos from Steve Martin, Mel Brooks, et al., and the Oscar-nominated tune "The Rainbow Connection." But this measly edition has just one brief extra, Miss Piggy would be offended.

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### War of the Worlds Limited Edition

★ ★  
DreamWorks, \$39.99

TOM Cruise's couch-jumping antics obscured one simple fact: This is the top-grossing movie of his career. Directed by Steven Spielberg, it has some great set pieces, but never amounts to more than a thrill ride. Dakota Fanning, of course, continues to amaze. The usual making-of extras.



### King Kong: Collector's Edition

★ ★ ★ ★  
Warner Bros., \$39.98

THIS 1933 classic is so primal, so exciting and, ultimately, so moving you can't help wondering: Why remake it? Still, director Peter Jackson's love for the big ape shines through in a making-of doc that's far longer than the movie itself. Also available in a box set with "Son of Kong" (1933) and "Mighty Joe Young" (1949), but that's two apes too many.

### Seinfeld Seasons 5 and 6 Gift Set

★ ★ ★ 1/2  
Sony, \$119.95

HOW did a show about nothing turn into a sitcom with convoluted plots worthy of Rube Goldberg? Those antics would weigh down the last few years, but episodes like "The Puffy Shirt" and "The Face Painter" make this essential. Among the standard-setting extras: audio commentaries, bloopers, trivia, a handwritten script, an actual puffy shirt and cartoon versions of classic scenes done in "Sein-imation."

### The Polar Express

★ ★ 1/2  
Warner Bros., \$29.95

TOM Hanks is fun in multiple roles, the movie captures the look and spirit of the beloved picture book by Chris Van Allsburg, and it enjoyed great word of mouth. (The DVD has loads of extras for kids, too.) But if the filmmakers had poured their energy into a half-hour prime-time special instead of inflating this quiet story into a 100-minute film, they could have created a classic. **Also out:** "The Best & Worst of American Idol" Seasons 1-4" (Capital; \$34.98); Akira Kurosawa's brilliant "Ran" (Criterion; \$39.95).

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### The Oprah Winfrey Show: 20th Anniversary Collection

★ ★ ★ ★  
Paramount, \$54.99

SIX discs, more than 17 hours of footage and, remarkably, not a dull moment. (Sappy? Yes. Dull? No.) From her early days as a newscaster right up to Tom Cruise's couch-jumping, this set covers everything via many, many clips, new documentaries and two complete episodes. Winfrey sat for extensive interviews, so this feels much more personal than just a highlights collection. Very well done.

### Oklahoma! 50th Anniversary Edition

★ ★ ★  
Fox, \$26.98

RODGERS & Hammerstein's best musical has always seemed a bit stodgy on film. But this new two-disc set of the 1955 movie may change that. It includes both the Cinemascope version and the rarely seen Todd-AO version. Both were shot simultaneously, but the Todd-AO version is considered by fans to be better acted. Indeed, even the title sequence and opening song are subtly different and better. This "Oklahoma!" is more than OK.



"Oklahoma!" gets purried up.

### Murder One: Second Season

★ ★ ★ 1/2  
Fox, \$59.98

ON Thursday nights, "Without a Trace" is kicking butt against "ER." But fans of Anthony LaPaglia knew he had the goods years ago, thanks to "Murder One." Season two of this legal series follows three trials where LaPaglia must defend people who all admit their guilt. The show was soon canceled, but LaPaglia's ultimate success was an open-and-shut case.

### Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price

★ 1/2  
Brave New Films, \$12.95

DIRECTOR Robert Greenwald takes a can't-miss topic — mega-corporation Wal-Mart — and makes a tiresome, poorly edited documentary with bad sound and hokey graphics. Testimonials from current and former Wal-Mart employees keep this from being a total waste.

— Michael Giltz

## This week's DVDs

### Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Deluxe Edition

★  
(Warner Bros., \$30.99)

WHO knows why the less remake became a hit? The sets are identical to the 1971. And the songs — us ward lyrics direct Roald Dahl book — weaker. Finally, John is so desperate to be from the brilliant Gene that he's just plain Extras include how like an Oompa-Loompa chance at a Golden T



Depp wigs out in "Charlie"

### Beavis and Butt-Head Vol. 1, The Mike Collection

★ ★ ★  
(Paramount, \$38.99)

GETTING rights to music videos makes by-season collection all but impossible. stupid, grunting, humor will have to this collection of cartoons and 11 videos obnoxious comm. Thanksgiving spec and more.

### Remington Steele Season Two

★ ★ ★ 1/2  
(Fox, \$39.98)

PIERCE Brosnan v play James Bond proved it via this about a debonair c teams up with a pr tive (Stephanie Z solve crimes. T brings Doris ( Loves Raymond") their computer-s tant, not to me favorite episode Steele." Genial fun

### Lady Sings the

★ ★ ★  
(Paramount, \$14.99)

AS Diana Ross e new 23-minute d she'd just left th and was worried future when M Berry Gordy crea vehicle for Ross t ry of troubled l Billie Holiday. Williams and R are good, but th is Ross. She's so you can't believe ma didn't lead to career.