



Buena Vista

The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy

★★½

(Touchstone; \$29.99)

Go into the future for a giggle with this sci-fi comedy that begins with the end of the world and does a pretty good job of capturing the anarchic

spirit of the comedic novel by Douglas Adams. Martin Freeman is perfectly cast as the helpless hero, Arthur Dent, though the usually engaging Mos Def is disappointingly subdued as alien writer Ford Prefect. Witty extras include deleted scenes, *fake* deleted scenes, two commentaries and a sing-along.

Fingersmith

★★★½

(Acorn; \$29.99)

This smashing fun U.K. miniseries is almost certainly the best Sapphic Dickensian melodrama we will ever see, telling a tale of con artistry and lesbian love based on the best-selling novel by Sarah Waters. Other TV just out: the Emmy-nominated miniseries "Empire Falls" (HBO; \$29.98) from the Pulitzer Prize winner by Richard Russo; the hilarious hip-hop interview spoof "Da Ali G Show: Da Compleet Second Season" (HBO; \$29.95); and the final season of the legendary Second City sketch comedy show with John Candy, Eugene Levy, et al., "SCTV Volume 4" (Shout; \$89.98).

"Troy" and "Alexander" are reason to flee the theater. But in the golden era of Hollywood, big, lumbering epics like 1959's 11-time Oscar winner "Ben-Hur Collector's Edition" managed to remain intelligent and engaging — thanks to director William Wyler and the stolid Charlton Heston. Extras are beyond lavish, not least of which is the complete 1925 silent version, two substantial documentaries and much more. Also out: the near-miss of 1983's "Rumble Fish Special Edition" (Universal; \$19.98) and the triumphant 1980 Loretta Lynn bio-pic "Coal Miner's Daughter 25th Anniversary Edition" (Universal; \$19.98).

Director's Label Series Vol. 2

★★★½

(Palm; \$79.98)

This new boxed set collects the work of four groundbreaking music video directors, each of which is available for \$24.98. It makes clear these short films aren't just launching pads for young talent or promos for rock stars, but fascinating, brilliant works of art. Artists featured with roughly a dozen works each include Anton Corbijn (U2's "One"), Mark Romanek (Johnny Cash's "Hurt"), Jonathan Glazer (Radiohead's "Karma Police") and Stephane Sednaoui (Bjork's "Big Time Sensuality").



Warner Bros.

Ben-Hur

★★★½

(Warner Bros.; \$39.92)

Today, big, lumbering epics like