

This week's DVDs

By MICHAEL GILTZ

I Love Lucy: The Complete Second Season

★★★

Paramount, \$69.99

ANOTHER classic series finally given the deluxe treatment. Season One is foolishly available in a string of individual DVDs. Season Two is a well packaged boxed set with loads of extras including Lucille Ball's radio show and hilarious flubs. Among the episodes: the endlessly funny chocolate-factory follies.



The Passion of the Christ

★

Fox, \$29.98

SOMETHING is sadly wrong when a movie about Jesus — even one focusing on only a tiny sliver of His life — leaves viewers reeling from blood and torture and pain and ugliness instead of love or compassion or hope. No extras, unfortunately, so no chance to hear Mel Gibson explain the many deviations from scripture, the historical inaccuracies, or other controversies. Heathens will prefer the three vulgar, crass, but funny South Park episodes on "The Passion Of The Jew" (Paramount, \$19.99).

The Lion King 2: Simba's Pride

★★½

Disney, \$29.99

DISNEY churns out way too many straight-to-DVD titles from their popular hits. But "Simba's Pride" is better than most. Simba's daughter Kiara unwittingly falls for Kovu, a cub from a rival pride. The animation is pretty good and the songs are great, including "He Lives In You" and "My Lullaby," the latter composed by "Buffy" creator Joss Whedon. Lots of fun games and short extras for kids. Families should also snatch up "Rocky & Bullwinkle & Friends: The Complete Second Season"

(Classic Media, \$39.98), the kiddie show with lots of inside jokes for adults.

Gettysburg and Stories of Valor

★★½

Inecom, \$39.95

PITY any filmmaker with a love of the Civil War: Everything on the subject stands in the shadow of Ken Burns' brilliant series. This two-volume set by director Mark Bussler is no exception, but hardcore buffs will soak up the narration by Keith Carradine and minutiae about medicine, prisons, battle plans and much, much more.

Star Trek The Original Series: The Complete First Season

★★★

Paramount, \$129.99

FINALLY! "Star Trek" has been available only in expensive single-volume DVDs — it took 40 discs and an acre of shelf space to hold them. Now Paramount has delivered a nifty packaging of the entire first season with hours of the usual extras (though oddly not the original pilot, "The Cage"). Beam it up.