

This week's DVDs

By MICHAEL GILTZ


The Martin Scorsese Film Collection

★★★

MGM, \$49.96

What better way to prod the minds of Oscar voters than this boxed set of four disparate movies by Scorsese. Two of them — 1972's "Boxcar Bertha" and 1977's "New York, New York" — are a mixed bag. But 1978's "The Last Waltz" is one of the great concert films and 1980's "Raging Bull" — in a lavish new edition with commentary and extras — is overwhelming in its greatness.

Malcolm X: Special Edition

★★★½

Warner Bros., \$26.99

Thank God (or should one say Allah?) that director Spike Lee fought tooth and nail to direct this film and then passed the hat to get it finished. It's his masterpiece, thanks in no small part to Denzel Washington's measured, brilliant performance. Extras include a fine 1972 documentary about Malcolm X, as well as a lengthy, entertaining making-of feature. Also just out: "Slavery and the Making of America" (Ambrose, \$79.99), a four-part PBS documentary narrated by Morgan Freeman.

Deadwood: First Season

★★★★

HBO, \$99.98

This brutal, foul-mouthed, wonderfully entertaining western started out very strong and got better and better. It's the best show on TV. The cursing has a point — as detailed in documentaries about the making of the show and interviews between creator David Milch and actor Keith Carradine. Also out: "Murder One: First Season" (Fox, \$59.98), another terrifically well acted drama.

The Notebook

Zero stars

New Line, \$27.95

Director John Cassavetes pioneered raw, urgent drama with movies like "A Woman Under The Influence." So this weepy, stunningly conventional melodrama by his son Nick Cassavetes can only be seen as the most rebellious movie of the year. The story of a wrong-side-of-the-tracks romance between Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams was a word-of-mouth hit. As was "Shark Tale" (DreamWorks, \$29.99), the animated movie also pilloried by critics but a hit at the box office.

Miami Vice: Season One

★★★

Universal, \$59.98



Michael Mann's feature film version of this iconic show (set to star Colin Farrell and Jamie Foxx) could be a lot of fun.

But it won't really be "Miami Vice," which is firmly rooted in the '80s, thanks to the clothing, the pop songs and Don Johnson's star turn.