



Six Feet Under: Complete Second Season ★★½
HBO, \$99.98

Rarely has a fine drama fallen so fast, with the show's subtle exploration of character turning into a typical soap in the second season. It's all made palatable by a terrific cast (led by Peter Krause, Michael C. Hall and Frances Conroy) and guest stars such as Patricia Clarkson. Extras include a 20-minute featurette on creating those dead bodies and five audio commentaries.

The Film Noir Collection: Vol. 1

★★★½
Warner Bros., \$49.92

A top-notch bundling of otherwise unrelated noir gems. You get B-movie classic "Gun Crazy" (1949); Dick Powell as Philip Marlowe in 1945's "Murder My Sweet," John Huston's seedy "The Asphalt Jungle" (1950); Robert Mitchum's 1947 "Out Of The Past" and the 1949 gritty boxing drama "The Set-Up." All with audio commentaries, including "The Set-Up," which has a sterling one by director Robert Wise and Martin Scorsese.

The Charlie Chan Chanthology

★
MGM, \$69.96

What you get here are the dregs: low-budget releases after the original star (Warner Oland) died, starring the second Chan (Sidney Toler) and made for a minor studio in 1944 and 1945 after 20th Century Fox had run the series into the ground. Not one of these six forgettable movies is over 65 minutes long, so they could have easily fit on two or three discs instead of six and sold for maybe \$30. No extras, of course. Just dreadful.

Big Top Pee-Wee

★★½
Paramount, \$49.99



Get ready for a Pee-Wee Herman revival, whose misunderstood second movie is finally out on DVD. While it can't hold a candle to the gentle sweetness of "Pee-Wee's Big Adventure," this 1988 comedy about a traveling circus is more attuned to Paul Reubens' twisted adult humor. No extras, sadly. Later this year, look for season one of the deliciously wacky TV show "Pee-Wee's Playhouse."

Independent's Day

★★★½
Docu Rama, \$26.95

This brief documentary by director Marina Zenovich lets those who've never been to the Sundance Film Festival get an inside look at the event. Astutely edited, using shots of Sundance as atmosphere, it features interviews with the major players. Robert Redford, Roger Ebert, Neil LaBute and Steven Soderbergh are all here, talking about the politics of the fest and how indie filmmakers have gone from making heartfelt projects to wondering if their movie is a "Sundance" film. Extras include outtakes from the interviews.