

# This week's DVDs

By MICHAEL GILTZ



## The Station Agent ★★½

Miramax, \$29.99

This thoughtful indie drama follows small-town folk who form bonds despite their best efforts to remain alone. Peter Dinklage gets the role of a lifetime as a trainspotter, Patricia Clarkson is typically wonderful and Bobby Cannavale practically steals the show as a man who won't take no for an answer. Extras include commentary by all three plus the director and deleted scenes.

## Ronald Reagan: The Great Communicator

★★★½  
MPI, \$39.98

This 7½ hour, double-disc set has been in the works for a long time, so don't peg it as a quickie attempt to capitalize on

Reagan's passing. You get four documentaries covering every facet of the Gipper's career (in Hollywood as well as politics). But it's the extras you'll feast on: generous excerpts from dozens of career highlights, including that speech before the Berlin Wall, the D-Day memorial speech, his response to the Challenger disaster and much more. Touching and stirring.

## Secret Window/ Bad Santa

★★★ each  
Columbia TriStar/Dimension,  
\$28.95/\$29.99

"Secret Window" has several factors working in its favor to achieve cult status: Johnny Depp's quirky performance, a score by Philip Glass and being based on a short story by Stephen King. "Bad Santa" has black humor (cynicism ages very well) and a holiday theme, which makes it perfect for annual revival. Both come with

modest extras (deleted scenes, etc.) and the aura of flicks that may be appreciated much more 10 years from now than they are today.

## The Lower Depths

★★★½  
Criterion, \$39.95

Who else but Criterion would take the time and effort to beautifully remaster Jean Renoir's 1936 version of "The Lower Depths," Akira Kurosawa's 1957 take on the same tale, commission new subtitling and package them with essays and other extras (most notably a 33-minute documentary about Kurosawa's film pulled from a longer work) all for a reasonable price? Certainly no one else would do it better.

## Reno 911! Complete First Season

★★★  
Paramount, \$26.99

Is this "Police Academy" for smart people? "Cops" for people who need to laugh? A reality spoof for people who don't like reality? Reno, Nev., is the site for this semi-improvised comedy about buffoons at a tiny police station that may very well have exhausted every possibility in its first season. Can you enjoy a show but not look forward to more episodes?