

## This week's DVDs

By MICHAEL GILTZ



**MINKEY BUSINESS:** Martin bumbles "Pink Panther."

### The World's Fastest Indian

★★  
Magnolia, \$26.98

A by-the-numbers bio-pic about an old coot in New Zealand who sets off for Utah's Bonneville Salt Flats to set a land-speed record on his Indian motorcycle. The most shocking revelation? Anthony Hopkins is still capable of giving a relaxed, cliché-free performance. Everything else is sleep-inducing.

### Dave Chappelle's Block Party

★★½  
Universal, \$29.98

AN amiable if shambling documentary that shows the genial Chappelle pulling together a dream block party with terrific musical guests. No gangstas here, just smart talent like Mos Def, Erykah Badu and the Fugees. A bonus making-of documentary is nice, but where is the footage of every performance unedited and uninterrupted?

**Also out:** Director Rob Reiner's delightful gem **"The Princess Bride: Collector's Edition"** (Paramount; \$24.96); the tightest pants in San Francisco are documented in **"That Man: Peter Berlin"** (Water Bearer Films; \$29.95); and Steve Martin seems hopelessly lost in **"The Pink Panther"** (Sony, \$28.95).

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### Syriana

★★★½  
Warner Bros., \$28.98

ALL you need to know to follow this complex drama is one word: oil. Everyone wants it or needs it — everyone is made rich or impoverished by it. A very good directorial effort by screenwriter Stephen Gaghan, with Matt Damon, Jeffrey Wright and George Clooney all terrific. The only drawback: modest extras (like deleted scenes) when we really wanted an education.



**SMARTEST GUY IN THE ROOM:** Oland in "Charlie Chan in Paris."

### Charlie Chan: Volume 1

★★★  
Fox, \$59.98

YES, Warner Oland is in "yellow face" playing the great detective. But Chan is always the smartest man in the room and one of the most positive images of Asians that Hollywood ever produced. You get four flicks, including the long-lost "Charlie Chan in Paris" (1935). Even better, Lucy Liu will remake Chan when she plays him in a 2007 feature.

### The Mary Tyler Moore Show: Complete Fourth Season

★★★★  
Fox, \$29.98

IS it possible? Four seasons into the show, they say goodbye to central characters like Rhoda and Phyllis, yet it keeps getting better. No other sitcom ever kept improving like this — thanks in part to the introduction of man-hungry Sue Ann Nivens (Betty White). No extras, but why bother gilding the lily?

### Clark Gable: The Signature Collection

★★★½  
Warner Bros., \$59.98

SIX good to great movies starring Gable, with modest extras. Standouts include 1936's epic disaster flick "San Francisco" and the under-appreciated gem "Boom Town" from 1940. That drama has Gable and Spencer Tracy drilling for oil, making and losing money with abandon.