

DVDs this week

By Michael Giltz

Metropolis (\$27.95; Columbia TriStar)/ Justice League (\$19.98; Warner Bros.)

Roger Ebert has selected the anime flick *Metropolis* for his Overlooked Film Festival and no wonder — this is a doozy that came and went too quickly. It's gorgeous-looking and the story is a fine retelling of Fritz Lang's *Metropolis*, complete with rebellious workers and robots as slaves. The best element? The music. Most anime have just so-so scores. But director Osamu Tezuka uses jazzy numbers and great pop songs. You won't soon forget Ray Charles belting out "I Can't Stop Loving You" during the finale. *Justice League* is the hour-long pilot for the cartoon, with a mildly serious demeanor and some offhand humor. OK, as far as it goes, but they should have included at least another two or four episodes.



EBERT

Dick Tracy (\$19.99; Touchstone)



BEATTY

From cartoon movies to a movie inspired by them. Plenty of films have used comics as a jumping off point, but almost none have captured the artifice and charm of the medium like Warren Beatty's entry. He revels in the painted backdrops and patently unrealistic sets, but maintains a tone of serious fun: what a hire-wire act; too bad he never made a sequel. *Dick Tracy* also has pretty good songs by Stephen Sondheim, a very good performance by Madonna, and a great supporting cast.

Flesh and Bone (\$24.99; Paramount)

A few weeks ago, Meg Ryan's best comic performance, in *Joe Versus the Volcano*, came out on DVD. Now we can savor her best dramatic turn fleeing a bad marriage in this brooding drama. It co-stars a brilliant Dennis Quaid as a vending machine stocker, James Caan as his nasty dad and Gwyneth Paltrow in a breakthrough role as a con artist. An absolutely top-notch drama from writer-director Steve Kloves, who made his debut with the delightfully off-beat romance *The Fabulous Baker Boys*. Now he's penning the screenplays for the *Harry Potter* movies; one can only hope he'll return to his own singular films sometime soon.



RYAN

Coming Home (\$19.98; MGM)/The Accused (\$24.99; Paramount)

Peter Biskind's book *Easy Riders, Raging Bulls* convinced everyone of what should have been obvious all along: Hal Ashby was the greatest director of the Seventies. In between *Harold and Maude*, *The Last Detail*, *Shampoo*, *Bound for Glory* and the ineffable *Being There*, Ashby delivered the Oscar-nominated *Coming Home*, a "problem picture" about Vietnam vets trying to get by on the home-front. Another "problem picture" just out is *The Accused*. The plot — about a vicious rape — seems more appropriate now for a TV movie, but Jodie Foster is typically incisive and won her first Oscar.



FOSTER

White Fang/White Fang 2 (\$19.99; Disney)



HAWKE

An excellent family film and one of the best adaptations of a story by Jack London. *White Fang* is about a neophyte prospector (a winning Ethan Hawke) who teams up with veteran gold digger Klaus Maria Brandauer (top-billed and dominating every scene he's in with ease). More importantly, Hawke meets the wolf-dog of the title. Sure, you know what's going to happen, but it's earnest and true while getting there. The sequel has a new lead in Scott Bairstow.