



## "CASABLANCA"

No, it doesn't get any better than this: "Casablanca," starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman as wartime lovers torn apart by fate (\$26.99, Warner Brothers). This is a truly special edition, with newly discovered scenes from the cutting room floor; Bogie's widow **Lauren Bacall** hosting two documentaries; a Bugs Bunny parody; a radio version with the top three stars; the pilot of the 1955 TV show spin-off (though not, sadly, the 1983 TV spin-off starring **David Soul**, **Ray Liotta** and **Scatman Crothers**); and a typically sterling commentary track by critic **Roger Ebert**. But best of all is the terrifically entertaining movie itself. If DVDs can wear out, this will be the one to prove it.

## "BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE"

Looking like a sad relic from the early '80s, this comedy starring **Steve Martin** and **Queen Latifah** (\$29.99, Touchstone) shows a white man flummoxed by getting entangled with a black female ex-con (she was innocent, of course). Released in March, this film made a lot of money, so if that can support Martin in the style he deserves while writing more fine novels, so much the better. Latifah executive produced and if her claim that the original script was really bad is true, after seeing the final, tired movie, one can only shudder to think what that earlier version might have been like.

## "AGENT CODY BANKS"

## "WHAT A GIRL WANTS"

Happily, young TV stars can and do get good big-screen vehicles. **Frankie Muniz** plays a teenage James Bond in "Agent Cody Banks" (\$26.98, MGM), alongside the amiable **Hilary Duff**. They should have downplayed the explosions and emphasized the ways a kid could do things an adult couldn't, but it's a painless film. **Amanda Bynes** does a reverse on "The Princess Bride," when she goes to snooty upper-class Britain in "What a Girl Wants" (\$27.95, Warner Brothers). "Banks" has more extras but both feature the stars on commentary tracks.

## THE VERY BEST OF "THE ED SULLIVAN SHOW"

This Ed Sullivan compilation (\$19.95, Sofa), which aired as a special on CBS a couple of years back, has a lot missing. With more than 1,000 hours of programming to draw on, they should have jammed two DVDs with as much material as possible. Instead, you get some complete performances (Elvis, The Beatles) and a lot of snippets: only part of The Rolling Stones singing "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction," part of Janis Joplin, part of **Barbra Streisand**, part of **Richard Pryor**, and only a shot part of the special's host **Carol Burnett** doing a comic routine. What a waste. A "Broadway" edition at the same price has 12 complete performances. But at less than one hour, it's even more of an insult.

## Also out:

**John Cusack's** charming breakthrough in the sweet 1985 gem "The Sure Thing" (\$19.98, MGM); **Nicolas Cage's** similar feat in the far more dated "Valley Girl" from 1983 (\$19.98, MGM); and **Leonardo DiCaprio's** straight-to-video debut in "Critters 3," (\$19.98 each, New Line).

Three other entries in the B-movie style are "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine: Season Four" (\$129.99, Paramount), which came fully alive thanks to an influx of writers once "Star Trek: The Next Generation" finally closed shop two years earlier; Howard Hawks' chilling 1951 fright-fest "The Thing" (\$19.98, Warner Brothers); and Vincent Price in "House of Wax," another horror flick from the '50s that is paired with the Michael Curtis original from 1933.

## Out next week:

Lots of TV, including the first season of "Will & Grace"; the second season of the animated series "Futurama"; the third season of "Babylon 5"; and the fourth season of "Farscape."