



## "Back to the Future" Trilogy

This has to be one of the strangest trilogies in movie history (\$39.95, Universal). What other Hollywood franchise has produced three different movies that have almost nothing in common except the same title and the same cast?

The first, of course, is a sheer delight, with Michael J. Fox in his best role as the time-traveling Marty McFly. The second, very dour installment, is utterly different in tone, style and intention. The third, a so-so comedy set mainly in the Old West, has a few in-jokes but could just as easily been written by someone who'd never even heard of the first two movies. Only the first is essential, but there's no arguing they've been nicely packaged as a set with lots of extras.

## "Minority Report"

Anyone wondering why DVDs have become so popular, so quickly, should check out this disc (\$19.95, DreamWorks). Steven Spielberg's dark look, with Tom Cruise, at a futuristic police force that arrests criminals before they commit their crimes has been packaged as a deluxe, two-disc set jammed full of commentary tracks and other extras, all for a price that people were paying for shoddily made VHS tapes 20 years ago. Hollywood doesn't have to worry about people downloading movies as long as they keep producing bargains like this.

## "The King of Comedy"

Real Robert De Niro fans knew he could be funny even before they saw "Meet the Parents" and "Analyze This."

Martin Scorsese's "The King of Comedy" (\$19.98, Fox) stars De Niro as Rupert Pupkin, a fanatical fan of TV talk-show host Jerry Langford (Jerry Lewis). Pupkin kidnaps Langford to force him to let the would-be comic do a stand-up routine on the air. (Pupkin has a mock-up of Langford's set in his home where he practices being a talk-show guest — an idea given an homage on "Seinfeld.")

Creepily funny with a lot on its mind, this very black comedy (co-starring Sandra Bernhard in a hilarious supporting role) also happens to be one of Scorsese's most accessible and entertaining.

## "Unfaithful"

Never underestimate the power of a good sex scene. As Roger Ebert has often pointed out, critics rarely talk about being attracted to stars or turned on by certain movie moments. But ask any moviegoer about this film and the steamy moments between Diane Lane and Olivier Martinez are first thing they mention. It's the main reason this infidelity drama (\$27.98, Fox) from director Adrian Lyne scored at the box office. And you can skip right to your favorite parts.

## "The Beach Boys: An American Band" "I Just Wasn't Made for These Times"

This double feature of documentaries at a great price (\$14.98, Artisan) covers the Beach Boys and their troubled genius Brian Wilson.

The first is a standard documentary about the group, from 1985. The second, rather plaintively titled one is an homage to Brian from music producer Don Was. He directed the film and corralled a herd of industry legends to talk about what made Brian's work on "Pet Sounds" and other albums so inventive and enduring. Watching the addled Brian talk can be rather upsetting, since he seems so out of it half the time. But Was sensitively captures the humor and insight Brian still retains.

## Rainer Werner Fassbinder

Film Forum is preparing a retrospective of films by the prolific German director who made more than 30 movies before dying at the age of 37.

It's almost not fair to say what I think about him, since there are so many of his films I haven't seen — such as his epic German TV miniseries "Berlin Alexanderplatz." Until Film Forum gets going on Feb. 14, catch up with a fine series of DVDs from Wellspring, most of them \$24.98. They offer the classic "Fox and His Friends" (in which Fassbinder starred), "The Bitter Tears of Petra Von Kant," and relatively obscure works like "The Niklashausen Journey" and "Katzelmacher."