



"Austin Powers in Goldmember"

Everything you expected and less, this second sequel (\$26.98; New Line) spins its wheels while repeating the same jokes over and over again. One strange sign of how Mike Myers has lost his way: Beyoncé Knowles makes a very shagadelic sidekick, but he doesn't so much as look at her until they exchange a chaste peck in the finale. That's not Austin! Some amusing moments, of course, especially from Michael Caine. But the many extras don't help: Outtakes of an unfunny comedy aren't exactly riveting.

"The Producers"

Oy, what terrible timing! This DVD (\$24.98; MGM) should have been released two years ago, when the Mel Brooks musical was wowing Broadway and everyone was clamoring to watch the original. Happily, his brilliantly tasteless comedy about two shysters trying to create a surefire flop will always be welcome. Gather your friends: You'll laugh yourself silly even if you're alone, but it's more fun with a group.

"Lilo & Stitch"

"Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron"

It's great to have two studios duking it out in animation: It keeps everyone on their toes and audiences awash in colorful stories. Disney wins this round with the modest, Hawaii-set story of an alien befriendng a little girl (\$29.99; Disney). Neither movie is great, but "Spirit" (\$19.95; DreamWorks) — with its Western setting and a noble young Native American — has the whiff of something that's good for you, rather than just good. Besides, when it's Elvis versus Bryan Adams, even Adams would hand it to the King.

"The Adventures of Prince Achmed"

"John Canemaker: Marching to a Different Toon"

"My Neighbor Totoro"

Here are a clutch of classics that put "Lilo" and "Spirit" to shame. "Prince Achmed" (\$29.99; Image) is a stunner from 1926: the first fully animated feature a good 10 years before Disney's "Snow White." German director Lotte Reiniger used cutouts to tell her "Arabian Nights" tale in silhouette — it's quaintly charming but still captivating.

Canemaker is a historian, champion of the art form and marvelous practitioner, as proven by this collection (\$24.99; Image). It gathers six of his best, including the stunning "Bridgehampton" and the witty "Confessions of a Stardreamer." Can't wait for that feature length film about his father.

Meanwhile, Fox finally releases Miyazaki's "Totoro" (\$14.98), only to ruin the fun by lazily offering only a butchered, cropped version. You're better off seeking out his brilliant current release "Spirited Away."

"John & Yoko's Year of Peace"

"Come Together: A Night for John Lennon"

It would be better to remember John Lennon on his birthday, but I can't help thinking about New York's own Beatle every Dec. 8. Focus on happier times with "Year of Peace" (\$19.99; Image), a ramshackle, brief but chaotically amusing look at 1969, when he and Yoko created a media firestorm by staging a bed-in. They must have been giggling under the sheets the entire time. A recent tribute concert (\$24.98; Pioneer) features some great covers, including Yolanda Adams on "Imagine" and Sean Lennon's turns on "Across the Universe" with Moby and Rufus Wainwright, "That Boy" with Rufus again, and "Julia" on his own. But the highlight is the instant kitsch classic of Kevin Spacey and his ego dueting on "Mind Games."

"The Complete Goofy"

Like most great comics, Goofy's wit, humanity and improvisational skills were taken for granted or simply overlooked. People were either laughing too much or figured comedy came too easily. No longer, thanks to this compilation (\$32.99; Disney), which proves every dog (except Pluto) will have his day. Also just out is the terrific "Mickey Mouse in Black and White" and "Behind the Scenes at the Walt Disney Studio," which features the Algonquin's Robert Benchley — of all people — as our host.