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DVDs THIS WEEK

By Michael Giltz



Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez look as glum as the few moviegoers who actually saw "Gigli" in a theater.

"GIGLI"

"THE BATTLE OF SHAKER HEIGHTS"

Bad movies come in all shapes and sizes, but few sink quicker than "Gigli" (\$26.96, Columbia TriStar). And even though it was lambasted by critics and avoided like the plague by audiences, you can bet it will rent like crazy — people have to know, is it really that bad? And thanks to "Project Greenlight," we have a new way to diss a movie. Instead of saying "The book was better," people who see "Shaker Heights" (\$29.99, Miramax) can aver, "The TV show was better." It did produce a star in **Shia LaBeouf**, however.

"BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER": SEASON 5 "FIREFLY": THE COMPLETE SERIES

"Buffy" would air for two more haphazard years on UPN, but her fifth and final season on the WB is the satisfying finale to a landmark series (\$59.98, Fox). It had a great villain with Glory (**Clare Kramer**) and the stirring last episode traded on the show's strength by showing that fighting evil entails a real cost. She saved the world a lot, said Buffy's epitaph — and for a few seasons, she saved TV as well. Too bad Fox wasn't more patient with **Joss Whedon's** new series "Firefly" (\$49.98, Fox), which had a rabid, if small, fan base and found its footing, as three lost episodes, along with the original 11 amply demonstrate.

"DIRTY DANCING": ULTIMATE EDITION

A spinoff to one of the most unexpected smashes in movie history arrives in February when "Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights" finally hits theaters. But there isn't a chance it will duplicate the success of the 1987 original (\$19.98, Artisan), a cheesy romantic drama about a girl's (**Jennifer Grey**) sexual awakening at the hands of a dance instructor (**Patrick Swayze**). It at least can boast a genuine sense of place (a Catskill's resort in 1963), some golden oldies and a few relatively steamy dance numbers.

"HORATIO HORNBLOWER: THE NEW ADVENTURES"

"Master and Commander" not rousing enough for you? Dive into "Horatio Hornblower" (\$39.95, A&E), a stirring tale with our hero (the dashing **Ioan Gruffudd**) facing off against the French on the sea, but collapsing helplessly under the simple love of a maid (**Jolie Savalha** of "AbFab") on land. They've done three fine adaptations of the 11 Hornblower books, and the possibility of their tackling the entire series (which takes our hero to old age) is one of the most exciting prospects TV has to offer.

Also out:

Jacques Demy's early treats "Lola" (with **Anouk Aimee**) and "Bay of Angels" (\$24.98 each, Wellspring) are beautifully presented; no one was waiting for **Martin Lawrence** and **Will Smith** to reunite for "Bad Boys II" (\$28.96, Columbia TriStar), but they did anyway; "The Sherlock Holmes Collection Volume Two" (\$69.98, MPI) features sterling prints of four Basil Rathbone-Nigel Bruce adventures; TLA's International Film Festival label offers unseen treats, like "Suicide Club" (\$24.99, TLA), which revels in the death pacts of high school girls; and "My Life on Ice" (\$24.98, Wellspring) is a low-key gem that shows the life of an ice-skating high schooler.

Out next week:

Snake tries to "Escape From New York" (luckily, he didn't have to deal with any snow); "Seabiscuit" crosses the finish line; and **Jamie Lee Curtis** enjoys a comedic comeback in "Freaky Friday."