



"My Big Fat Greek Wedding"

The most successful indie film of all time, "MBFGW" (\$27.95, HBO Video) will ultimately be remembered for two reasons. One, it pioneered a clever form of distribution other indie releases with wide appeal should mimic. (Though only playing in a few cities at first, the movie opened on a lot of screens in each town, giving it the aura of a mainstream movie rather than an art-house niche flick.) Two, it may be the rare movie eclipsed by its TV spin-off. Indeed, why shouldn't writer/star **Nia Vardalos'** genuine appeal and sitcom sensibility play better on the small screen? More power to her, but lay off the Windex jokes. Please.

"Beauty and the Beast"

Jean Cocteau's gorgeous fable about a maiden and the cursed monster who loves her (\$39.95, Criterion) is reason alone to celebrate this DVD. But Criterion has really given us two movies in one: "Beauty and the Beast" also contains the entire score (both music and vocals) **Philip Glass** composed to be performed with this film. His other operas written in conjunction with Cocteau movies contain much more dance and movement — making them impractical for similar treatment; they simply must (and should) be seen live. But Glass' score — like his marvelous work for "The Hours" — works perfectly here and is utterly bewitching. I'd hate to choose between the two versions and, happily, Criterion guarantees that I won't have to.

"X-Men 1.5"

"Daredevil vs. Spider-Man"

This slightly expanded version of the theatrical hit "X-Men" (\$26.98, Fox) has a few new featurettes and a glimpse of the sequel out this summer. The one nice innovation is getting to see the cut scenes inserted into the original theatrical version, rather than as stand-alone snippets. That aside, there's nothing here that shouldn't have been included on the original DVD release. For serious comic buffs, the '90s saw some great animated revivals on TV for Superman and Batman. Spidey got similar treatment but he was already pretty modern to begin with, so rethinking Peter Parker didn't pay that many dividends, as this multi-episode arc proves (\$19.99, Buena Vista). But the bonuses are good, including a classic Spidey episode from the '60s and even a "Fantastic Four" I'd never seen before.

"Angel": Season One

"Angel" spent its entire first season in the long shadow of "Buffy," trying to figure out how **David Boreanaz** could brood over something other than his Slayer (\$59.98, Fox). They wouldn't shake the feeling of a spin-off until the second year (and even then only hard-core fans would compare it to the original). But even in its faltering beginnings, this is a lot easier to take than the idea of Buffy's little sister taking center stage in the fall.

"The Mystery of Picasso"

"Devil's Playground"

If you can't get into the Matisse-Picasso exhibit at MoMA Queens — and if you haven't already bought your tickets, you'd better hurry — this 1955 documentary is a diverting option (\$29.95, Milestone). A clever projection system lets us watch Picasso doodle on a canvas, as if we're peering over his shoulder. He works on dozens of sketches, with the almost essential commentary track from experts to give it context. A very different documentary, "Devil's Playground" shows Amish teens partying among the worldly until they decide whether they can devote themselves to the life they were born into (\$24.98, Wellspring). Interestingly, you'll be just as surprised when some of them don't return as you are when some of them do.

"Full Frontal"

Steven Soderbergh has it backwards. Usually, directors who vault back and forth between the studios and indie films behave as anonymous guns-for-hire on the blockbusters and pour their passion and intensity into the smaller pieces. Soderbergh, however, seems more disciplined and serious with major movies like "Solaris" and even "Ocean's Eleven." But when it comes to tossed off quickies like "Schizopolis" and "Full Frontal" (\$29.99, Miramax) you have the feeling he's just goofing around.