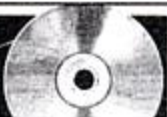


# Arts

## DVDs THIS WEEK

By Michael Giltz



### "TALES OF THE CITY"

### "QUEER AS FOLK": COMPLETE SECOND SEASON

It's been a painful wait for the landmark miniseries "Tales of the City" (\$59.95, Acorn). Two lesser sequels have been out on DVD for a while, while this far superior entertainment languished. Finally, we can enjoy that first visit to Armistead Maupin's Barbary Lane and the grand cast including **Olympia Dukakis**, **Laura Linney**, **Thomas Gibson** and many others. "Tales" was once shocking, but "Queer As Folk" goes much further in its soapy sexiness, albeit with less success. It's way overpriced but essential for fans (\$119.98, Showtime).

### "ROAD TO PERDITION"

Sometimes, Oscar gets it right, as with **Sam Mendes'** decent follow-up to his over-praised debut "American Beauty." "Road" (\$19.95, DreamWorks) got a number of Oscar nods in the technical categories, which is exactly what this terrific looking gangster entry deserves. Its ending is too predictable, but **Tom Hanks**, a creepy **Jude Law** (why do the best looking actors always insist on making themselves look awful?) and a magisterial **Paul Newman** give the story dignity.

### "STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE": SEASON ONE

How many burdens can one show bear? "Deep Space Nine" (overpriced at roughly \$129.99, Paramount) stands in the shadow of the original "Star Trek" series, the arguably superior spin-off "Star Trek: The Next Generation" and the popular movie adventures. It never stepped out of those shadows, but for those who can't get enough of the Ferengis, et al., it's all here.

### "TUCK EVERLASTING"

This adaptation of the Natalie Babbitt classic about a family blessed (or more likely cursed) with eternal life is a real gem (\$29.99, Disney). It got solid reviews, but disappeared from theaters, despite a top-notch cast including **Alexis Bledel** of "Gilmore Girls," **William Hurt**, **Ben Kingsley**, **Sissy Spacek**, **Amy Irving** and **Victor Garber**. Bledel is Winnie Foster, a young girl in the early 1900s, who stumbles on the Tucks and falls for the youthful **Jesse Tuck** (**Joshua Jackson**), who's only about 100 years her senior despite looking about 17 years old. Gentle, quiet and quite moving, it's a real find.

### "THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES"

### "THE SIGN OF FOUR"

Why would anyone try and tackle Sherlock Holmes after the defining performance of **Jeremy Brett**? And yet they do, as last year's dreadful take on "Hound" (\$19.98, BBC), starring **Richard Roxburgh** as Holmes and **Ian Hart** as Watson, unfortunately proves. It's truly a crime, given the unnecessary changes to the original tale. Happily, Brett's much more faithful version is just out, along with a slew of other TV movies (\$14.98 each, MPI), such as the terrific "The Sign of Four," and lesser entries "The Eligible Bachelor" and "The Last Vampyre."

### "THE COMPLETE MUSKETEERS"

Director **Richard Lester** gives a master class in the nearly lost art of smart entertainment with the swash-buckling comedies "The Three Musketeers" and its sequel "The Four Musketeers" (\$34.98, Artisan), featuring **Michael York** and **Raquel Welch** in their best roles. It's churlish to complain when getting two terrific movies, but what about "The Return of the Musketeers" made many years later with everyone reunited (and the addition of **C. Thomas Howell**)? It's not a patch on the earlier ones but still — you can hardly call this set "complete" without it.