

1/20/04  
**DVDs THIS WEEK**  
by Michael Giltz



Antonio Banderas and Salma Hayek star as lovers in Robert Rodriguez's "Once Upon a Time in Mexico."

### "ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO"

Robert Rodriguez brings his "El Mariachi" trilogy to a smashing conclusion with **Antonio Banderas** and **Salma Hayek** reunited as lovers, joined by a terrifically diverse cast including **Mickey Rourke**, **Willem Dafoe**, **Ruben Blades**, **Cheech Marin** and **Enrique Iglesias**, but above all **Johnny Depp** as a one-armed special agent (\$28.95; Columbia TriStar).

### "PUNK'D": COMPLETE FIRST SEASON "THE SIMPLE LIFE"

Just as stand-up comics were polishing lines like "Dude, where's my career?" **Ashton Kutcher** pulled the plug on "Punk'd" (\$26.99; Paramount). Because it plays pranks on celebs like **Justin Timberlake**, **Kelly Osbourne** and **Pink**, it's actually more repeatable than most hidden-camera shows. And surely al-Qaeda is buying up copies of "The Simple Life" (\$19.98; Fox) and sending it to all their friends: what better way to inspire anti-Americanism than **Paris Hilton** and **Nicole Richie** being self-centered down on the farm?

### "SPELLBOUND"

"Spellbound" (\$26.95; Columbia TriStar) is a documentary that follows a group of kids as they proceed through regional competition toward the national final spelling bee in Washington. Delightful, tense, amusing, it's more entertaining than any mainstream Hollywood movie you saw this year.

### "THE SIDNEY POITIER COLLECTION"

#### "THE BEST OF SOUL CINEMA"

**Sidney Poitier** seems like such a stuffed shirt, but give the man his due with this five-DVD set: which includes 1967's "In the Heat of the Night," as well as two sequels with the detective Mr. Tibbs; "Lilies of the Field" from 1963, along with "For Love of Ivy." For hipper fun, you can enjoy the kitsch and kicks of **Pam Grier** in "Coffy" and "Foxy Brown," the overlooked "Cooley High" and other entries in the five-DVD set "Soul Cinema" (\$62.96 each; MGM).

### "THE ACCIDENTAL TOURIST"

In seven years **Lawrence Kasdan** directed four gems: "Body Heat," "The Big Chill," "Silverado" and this 1988 Oscar nominee (\$19.97; Warner Bros.), with **William Hurt** as a recluse roused by **Geena Davis**.

#### Also out:

Jean Renoir's classic "The Rules of the Game" (\$39.95; Criterion); Kevin Costner's pokey western "Open Range" (\$29.99; Touchstone); Gene Autry's trim "Back in the Saddle" and "Under Fiesta Stars" (\$19.99 each; Image), two Westerns from 1941; "Barney Miller": The First Season (\$29.95; Columbia TriStar); and Scarlett Johansson's indie comic gem "Manny & Lo" (\$24.96; Sony Pictures Classics).

#### Coming out next Tuesday:

The sixth season of "Friends"; the teen drama "Thirteen"; and "The Sherlock Holmes Collection: Box 3," with Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce.