



THE BILLY WILDER COLLECTION

Here's one of the great DVD bargains of all time: a boxed set with nine Billy Wilder movies at a great price (\$129.96, MGM). The classics that everyone should own include 1959's "Some Like It Hot" and Wilder's masterpiece from 1960, "The Apartment." Great fun can be found with 1957's "Witness for the Prosecution," 1970's "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (which features extensive extras in an attempt to show what the much longer version that Wilder originally intended would have looked like), 1961's "One, Two, Three" and 1966's "The Fortune Cookie." But even lesser Wilder efforts like 1964's "Kiss Me, Stupid" and 1972's "Avanti!" are more fun surrounded by Wilder's best. And if you already own some of them, each title is available separately (\$19.98 each). Scathing and funny.

"FRIENDS": COMPLETE FOURTH SEASON

"M*A*S*H": FOURTH SEASON

"Friends" is unstoppable in the fourth season (\$44.98, Warner Bros.), whether showing Ross and Rachel fighting their romance, Joey messing up on his first job making a big Hollywood movie, Phoebe offering to carry her half-brother's baby and that big finale wedding in London.

Season four for "M*A*S*H" (\$39.98, Fox) is all about change. Trapper John and Henry Blake are gone but they're replaced by B.J. and Col. Potter. No one could have expected the show to survive such wholesale changes.

"GODS AND GENERALS"

Ever wondered what it would be like to watch a World War II movie made by Germans who were sorry Hitler lost? That's the closest you could get to "Gods and Generals" (\$27.98, Warner Bros.), the Ron Maxwell directed prequel to 1993's "Gettysburg" starring **Robert Duvall** and **Stephen Lang** that is stunningly slanted toward the South.

Southerners are invariably shown as righteous, God-fearing, civilized men who love their slaves wholeheartedly (the slaves love them back, of course), cry bitter tears on the battlefield when forced to slaughter their misguided Yankee brethren, and generally embody all that is good and holy, like some latter day Old Testament prophets (especially Stonewall Jackson).

Yankees are cynical about politicians and war and depraved looters. It's the grossest distortion of the Civil War since D.W. Griffith's epically racist "The Birth of a Nation" in 1915. History is written by the victors but apparently — sometimes — the losers still get to make the movies.

"LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE": SEASONS 1 AND 2

What a treat. The first two seasons of the gentle family drama "Little House on the Prairie" (\$44.98 each, Imavision) are a bargain of nostalgia for adults and perfect viewing for young ones. Thanks to being set in the past, its wholesome tone is not only bearable but appropriate. And **Melissa Gilbert** gives one of the great non-cutesy kid's performances TV has ever seen. Also just out is the two-hour TV movie that launched the show and the two-hour special "I'll Be Waving As You Drive Away," the jump-the-shark episode from the fourth season, when Mary went blind (\$9.95 each).

Also out:

Roberto Benigni's Waterloo — also known as "Pinocchio" (\$29.99, Miramax); the powerful Russian war drama "Prisoner of the Mountains" (\$19.98, MGM), a gem about soldiers held prisoner by Chechen guerillas; **Jackie Chan** and **Owen Wilson** in "Shanghai Knights" (\$29.99, Touchstone), the less-than-satisfying sequel to "Shanghai Noon"; and "To Live" (\$19.98, MGM), **Zhang Yimou's** epic about recent China history, which got the director in hot water for taking on the bitter legacy of Mao.

Next Tuesday:

Felicity chops off her hair before her second season in the most famous new do since Mia Farrow in TV's "Peyton Place"; **Charlie Hunnam** charms his way through the turbulent life of "Nicholas Nickleby"; and the devastating miniseries "The Corner."