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# DVDs THIS WEEK

By Michael Giltz



## "GANGS OF NEW YORK"

Director **Martin Scorsese** is an old hand at commentary tracks and an infectious teacher about movies. So when he builds up a head of steam on the audio track for "Gangs of New York" (\$29.99; Miramax), it's no surprise he's so fascinating and enthusiastic you become eager to once again watch his lumbering epic about the violence at the heart of early American history. **Daniel Day-Lewis** remains magnetic and **Leonardo DiCaprio** is fine, but this movie plays even more poorly at home than it did on the big screen. Thank goodness, Scorsese didn't win the Oscar for this when he's done so many movies that deserve it more. Other extras include a History Channel documentary about "The Real Gangs of New York" and a closer look at the overpraised set design.

## "THE GOLD RUSH"

Charlie Chaplin was so prolific and funny, you can spend hours arguing which of his top-notch efforts is the best. These days, many people would lay their money on the "Mutual" shorts. But when it comes to feature-length films, anyone with a heart can agree that "The Gold Rush" may be equaled (by "City Lights," for example) but is never bettered (\$29.95; Warner Bros.). This beautiful new print includes the trim director's cut from 1942 and the original silent version from 1925 that's some 20 minutes longer.

Also just out is the sentimental "Limelight" from 1952, which paired Chaplin and Buster Keaton for the first time; the clever "Modern Times" from 1936; and the fitfully brilliant and daring "The Great Dictator" from 1940, that includes an intriguing documentary extra comparing the lives of Chaplin and Hitler. All are the same price and essential for film buffs. Newcomers should rush for "Gold."

## "KING OF THE HILL": SEASON ONE

No one expected whatever sophomoric mind was behind Beavis and Butt-head to be heard from again. Surely, that dumber-than-dumb MTV cult hit had one-hit wonder written all over it. But creator **Mike Judge** has gone on to direct the cult comedy "Office Space" (1999) and the modest hit series "King of the Hill" (\$39.98; Fox), which is easily the most realistic animated show of all time. From the very first episode — where Hank squares off with an annoying social worker — this conservative-friendly show harvests humor out of the common sense frustrations of those Americans who live somewhere between the two coasts. Extras include amusing commentary tracks by characters on the show, such as Bobby, Peggy and Dale but, sadly, none from Judge himself.

## "WINGS OF DESIRE"

One of the greats, **Wim Wenders'** "Wings of Desire" (\$24.98; MGM) is a brilliant, moving, unforgettable tale about the angels perched among us, listening with sympathy to our deepest desires and easing our pain by their mere unseen presence. More specifically, it's about one angel (**Bruno Ganz**) who falls in love and risks his eternal existence in order to be truly alive, however briefly. A bittersweet classic, it includes a making-of documentary, more than 30 minutes of deleted scenes, an interactive map of Berlin where the movie is set and a commentary track by Wenders and the shambling **Peter Falk**, who has a small role as himself.

### Also out:

More "I Love Lucy" (\$14.99 each; Paramount), including Volume 8 and the classic Vitameatavegamin episode; the predictably bland "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days" (\$19.95; Paramount); 1976's "The Tenant" (\$19.99; Paramount), **Roman Polanski's** attempt at recapturing the horror of "Rosemary's Baby"; a collector's edition of 1998 gross-out comedy "There's Something About Mary" (\$26.98; Fox); "The Real Cancun" (\$26.97; New Line), a thankfully failed attempt at bringing cheapo reality programming to the big screen; and 1956's "Anastasia" (\$19.98; Fox), a soapy but beautifully mounted melodrama with **Ingrid Bergman** as incandescent as ever.

### Coming next Tuesday:

**Colin Farrell's** sniper-with-a-grudge movie "Phone Booth"; **Peter Sellers** playing multiple roles in the goofy comedy "The Mouse That Roared"; and seasons one and two of that wholesome drama "Little House on the Prairie."