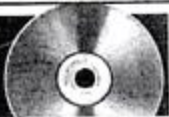


# Arts

## DVDs THIS WEEK

By Michael Giltz



### "PHONE BOOTH"

With **Colin Farrell's** latest movie "Phone Booth" (\$27.98, Fox) hitting DVD, how is his career shaping up? He broke through just three years ago with the Vietnam drama "Tigerland," which made no money but made his name. Since then, every movie he's starred in has been either a critical or commercial flop, including the Western "American Outlaws" (2001), the World War II drama "Hart's War" (2002), the silly spy movie "The Recruit" (2003), in which Farrell disappeared under the harsh glare of **Al Pacino's** scenery chewing — and now "Phone Booth."

No one could look good in such a poorly written, misbegotten project as this (a good idea for an episode of "Alfred Hitchcock Presents," a bad idea for a movie). But playing a nasty p.r. hack (is that redundant?) held hostage in a phone booth by a maniacal sniper, Farrell fails to convince at any moment — especially the finale, when he must break down and beg forgiveness from his wife, would-be mistress and hapless assistant. Farrell's got three more chances lined up: the action flick, "S.W.A.T.," later this summer; his first real drama, "A Home at the End of the World"; and "Alexander," with **Oliver Stone**. If these flop, too, Farrell could find that when he calls Hollywood for more work, all he'll get is a busy signal.

### "LA FEMME NIKITA"

#### "LA FEMME NIKITA": COMPLETE FIRST SEASON

A brazenly silly French hit from 1990, "La Femme Nikita" (\$24.98, MGM) is "slick" only in the sad way a foreign film aping Hollywood can be. The dreadful director **Luc Besson** has a field day with this story of a hardened street tough turned deadly (but beautiful) assassin. Surprisingly, it was turned into a silly but fun USA Network series starring **Peta Wilson** (\$99.98, Warner Bros.) that ran for five seasons beginning in 1997. That transformation isn't so surprising when you discover the people behind the terrific Fox drama "24" worked on this one as well. With commentary tracks on the TV show and a making-of documentary for the movie.

### THE BARBRA STREISAND COLLECTION

This boxed set of four movies is a decidedly mixed bag (\$69.92, Warner Bros.). All but ardent fans of Babs would be better off simply springing for "What's Up, Doc?" (\$19.98 each), **Peter Bogdanovich's** 1972 screwball comedy with **Streisand** never sexier or funnier as a serial college dropout wrecking havoc in the life of mild-mannered musicologist **Ryan O'Neal**. Unfortunately, Streisand only speaks for a few minutes on the commentary track, while Bogdanovich — who should be a terrific talker — proves a bore.

If you want a solid two hours of Streisand holding forth, buy the drama "Nuts," a solid 1987 showcase that makes good use of her sometimes prickly public persona. Though it's about a prostitute who murdered her client and whether she's mentally fit to stand trial, the project was clearly close to Streisand's heart and inspires interesting comments from her throughout. To a lesser degree, so does "Up the Sandbox" (1972), with Streisand trying and failing to play an average housewife. And the less said about her reunion with O'Neal — the 1979 boxing comedy "The Main Event" — the better.

#### Also out:

If "Pirates of the Caribbean" has you in a swash-buckling mood, pick up "The Crimson Pirate" from 1952, with **Burt Lancaster** jumping around to show off his acrobatic ability and being very "avast there, ye lubbers!"; or the even milder "Scaramouche," also from 1952 and best remembered for a finale that includes reportedly the longest swordfight in movie history (\$19.98 each, Warner Bros.).

#### Next Tuesday:

The Civil War epic "Gods and Generals" with **Robert Duvall**; the fourth seasons of "Friends" and "M\*A\*S\*H"; **Jackie Chan's** disappointing "Shanghai Knights" and a refurbished version of **Billy Wilder's** lost classic "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes."