

DVDs this week



Unbreakable (\$29.99; Touchstone)

Since even a DVD like *Dude, Where's My Car* (\$26.98) features extras like a commentary track from the director and deleted scenes, studios are creating special lines to distinguish releases with extra extras. New Line has the Platinum Edition and with *13 Days* on July 10 it launches the even more elaborate series Infinifilm. With *Unbreakable*, Touchstone introduces its Vista Series and anything that encourages them to pack in even more bonus material is fine by us. This well-made drama was dismissed by many who didn't like the surprise ending (even though it was well in keeping with the comic book theme). But you have to admit it was a carefully crafted, thoughtful film. (I especially like Bruce Willis as a superhero in training who finds his first night as a vigilante disturbing and sad.) Though less satisfying than *The Sixth Sense*, this movie somehow makes me more eager to see director M. Night Shyamalan's next movie.

Traffik (\$39.95; Acorn Media)

TV is seen as a writer's medium, but what a difference the right director can make. Alastair Reid helmed this masterful six-part look at the drug trade, which is in every way more complex, more compelling and more exciting than Steven Soderbergh's Oscar-winning movie version. Reid juggles the disparate storylines (which follow the path of drugs from the fields of Pakistan to the homes of London) with ease and coaxes a marvelous performance from Julia Ormond in her film debut. His brilliant work on this 1990 mini garnered Reid the director's slot on the first *Tales of the City*. But because PBS chickened out on a sequel, Reid wasn't able to direct the second or third editions.

Paul McCartney — Live at the Cavern Club (\$24.99; Image)



"Macca"

Every few years Macca gets a yen to trot out the oldies and does a gig somewhere where he bashes out classics like "Brown Eyed Handsome Man" and "Twenty Flight Rock." Obviously, it would be a lot more fun to see him in person, but this is a good souvenir for Beatles fans. And if George Michael could front Queen after Freddie Mercury died, why not give a bunch of rockers a chance to karaoke with *The Doors*? That seems the idea behind *VIII: Storytellers: The Doors — A Celebration* (\$24.99; Image). Scott Weiland of Stone Temple Pilots, Ian Astbury of the Cult and others all get a chance to belt out classic numbers with the surviving members. Perry Farrell shows the most giddy excitement, but Pat Morahan of Train snags the award for capturing Jim Morrison's brooding romanticism.

You Can Count On Me (\$29.99; Paramount)

They've just extended Kenneth Lonergan's play *Lobby Hero*, so if you haven't seen it already you have no more excuses. It will remind you what a quiet, compelling storyteller he is. And that should send you back for another look at his film debut, *Laura Linney* — who's so wonderful on stage — sometimes can disappear on screen in anonymous roles. But here she is shown to be a complex, marvelous actress. Mark Ruffalo could be dismissed as a pretty face. But his performance convinces you he should be touted as the *Next Big Thing*. And just when the Culkin family seemed ready to call it a day, Kieran gets some of the funniest lines in the movie without every playing a cute kid. The story is classically slice-of-life — a ne'er do well brother comes to pay a visit to his sister, raising the false hope that he might straighten out for once. A secondary plot has Matthew Broderick as a hilariously annoying new boss for Linney. And Lonergan drolly steals his scenes as a priest. Rarely are movies this satisfying.

Blackadder — The Complete Collector's Set (\$119.98; BBC Video)

Only the British can make silliness seem so sophisticated. Case in point: the scheming, lying, thoroughly untrustworthy Black Adder, that simpering, spineless anti-hero who sneaks his way through the Middle Ages. Rowan Atkinson (TV's "Mr. Bean") is hilariously backstabbing, whether accidentally beheading the king in *Blackadder I* or wandering into the trenches of World War I and realizing to his dismay that the Germans are trying to kill him. This superlative five disc set covers all five seasons of the *Black Adder*. Ranks with Monty Python as among the greatest of Britcoms.

— Michael Giltz