

# DVDs THIS WEEK

By Michael Giltz



## "8 MILE"

Yo! This entertaining, Rocky-meets-rap movie from director **Curtis Hanson** was a deserving hit (\$26.98, Universal). It's nicely modest, with **Eminem** playing Rabbit, a forlorn white kid who has to find the courage to flow onstage (i.e. rap) as easily as he does off. Why modest? Because Rabbit must balance the demands of a job with the dreams of rapping — and his victory is more about surviving than scoring a record deal. The extras include a video for the very funny "Superman" (which mocks **LL Cool J's** "I Need Love"). It has a little nudity and a lot of the complicated wit and anger that makes him so compelling. Most say Rabbit is the only role Eminem could play, but they're wrong. He has terrific screen presence and given the right script could easily score in an urban comedy. If **Ice Cube** wants to make a buddy movie with a white boy, Eminem's his man.

## "NYPD BLUE": SEASON 1

If **David Caruso's** rebirth on "C.S.I.: Miami" hadn't already reminded us, this first-season collection of "NYPD Blue" (\$59.98, Fox) demonstrates again what a compelling TV star he is. That quiet, earnest delivery; those pained, soulful eyes; the sense of a moral compass in a world sinking into despair — it all works beautifully on the small screen. Watching the first season again, the only thing more remarkable than realizing Caruso would give up such a terrific role is the fact that the show actually survived his departure.

## "PERSONAL VELOCITY"

## "ROGER DODGER"

Like most movies that tell several vaguely connected stories, **Rebecca Miller's** omnibus is a mixed bag (\$26.98, MGM). In by far the best segment, **Parker Posey** finds her career as a book editor taking off. It's nice to see Posey doing an indie film for a change, isn't it? **Campbell Scott** scores well as the would-be womanizer in "Roger Dodger," but it feels rather rote and has a bizarre final act. The sparkiest moment comes when Roger and the nephew he's mentoring trade tricks with the delightful **Elizabeth Berkley** and **Jennifer Beals** (\$26.98, Artisan).

## "DAY FOR NIGHT"

## "A MAN AND A WOMAN"

## "DREAMS"

Filmmakers love making movies about making movies and many of them are just as dull as a real film set. **Francois Truffaut** made one of the canniest with "Day for Night," an amusingly caustic but loving depiction of egos and compromise. Also just out is **Claude Lelouch's** classic romance "A Man and a Woman" and **Kurosawa's** anthology "Dreams." His stock as an auteur continues to rise, but it isn't because of this one (\$19.98 each, Warner Bros.).

## "STEAM"

## "HAREM"

## "HIS SECRET LIFE"

**Ferzan Ozpetek** is an increasingly confident director. "Steam" was his American breakthrough, but "Harem" and 2002's very good "His Secret Life" (\$29.99 each, Strand) bookend that movie nicely. "Harem" peeked into that mysterious world with a tale of intrigue set in Baghdad at the turn of the last century. "Steam" explored the Turkish baths. And now "His Secret Life" moves mostly away from such exotica to show a widow finding out her late husband led a double life as a gay man. Watch all three in a row and you'll see a real talent come into his own.

## "THE KIDS IN THE HALL"

"Tour of Duty," the latest stage tour of the Kids in the Hall, solidly captures their clever skits and quiet charm (\$19.98, Win Media). Those who miss the best sketch comedy troupe of the '90s will happily latch on to one more visit with **Buddy Cole**, the Chicken Lady and some of the funniest, most perceptive female characters played by men you'll ever see.

## "KEEPING UP APPEARANCES": BOXED SET

**Hyacinth** — the desperately upwardly mobile star character of this Britcom mainstay — can hold her head high with this deluxe boxed set. It collects all 16 episodes of the first two seasons and — God help us — four Christmas specials (\$79.98; BBC Video).