

## DVDs THIS WEEK

By Michael Giltz



### "WHO FRAMED ROGER RABBIT"

If cutting-edge special effects were all that mattered, "Star Wars II: Attack of the Clones" would be a masterpiece. So "Who Framed Roger Rabbit" (\$29.99, Touchstone) isn't a classic because of its revolutionary blending of a live actor and animation. It's a classic because of a very clever script (positing a world where cartoon characters are real and interact with humans) and brilliant vocal performances by the likes of **Kathleen Turner** and a remarkable turn by **Bob Hoskins**. (One of the best extras shows him performing before all the effects are added.) Just as much fun today as when it first came out.

### "CSI": COMPLETE FIRST SEASON

### "FUTURAMA": VOLUME ONE

Like "Law & Order," "CSI" (\$89.99, Paramount) is a show that's endlessly watchable but doesn't seem necessary to own. Since most episodes are self-contained, it's not really important to watch them in order or even season-by-season. That said, "Unfriendly Skies" and "Blood Drops" are indeed stand-outs. "Futurama" (\$39.98, Fox) has always stood in the shadow of "The Simpsons," and rightly so. At the heart of "The Simpsons" is a warm, genuine cast of characters. At the heart of "Futurama" is merely an excuse for endless gags.

### "DANCE FOR CAMERA"

Short films have always been the red-headed stepchild of cinema — they're perfect for certain stories but virtually impossible to find on TV or video. Happily, the explosion of DVD may change that. The format is so popular there's an endless hunger for new product. And DVD — which can jump from track to track — is ideal for compilations of short films. "Dance for Camera" (\$29.95, First Run) is hopefully a taste of what's to come. It focuses on six award-winning shorts centered around dance, providing films from Switzerland, Canada, the United States and the Netherlands (which offers the witty "Rest in Peace"). A treat.

### "MAID IN MANHATTAN"

This romantic comedy about a hotel maid (**Jennifer Lopez**) who falls in love with a rising politician (a bland as oatmeal **Ralph Fiennes**) is certainly dull (\$27.94, Columbia TriStar). But it lets J.Lo relax into an affable star.

### SHERLOCK HOLMES COLLECTION

This collection of **Jeremy Brett** movies features the peerless "Hound of the Baskervilles" and four late entries in his Sherlock Holmes run (\$59.98, MPI). Fans should definitely start with the original one-hour episodes of the series. One major complaint: they just released these movies as single titles a few weeks ago. If they're going to put them all out in a boxed set, it's a foolish betrayal of hard-core fans to release the titles singly and then the boxed collection.

### "WAR AND REMEMBRANCE"

Well, it is long (\$129.98, MPI). This lumbering miniseries — a sequel to the relatively sprightly "Winds of War" — is inferior in every respect, with Robert Mitchum looking especially long in the tooth as Herman Wouk's Gump-like hero (not because he's slow but because he bumps into every major historical figure you can name). Dutifully faithful to the book and well-packaged by MPI standards.

### "LUCAS"

This delightful story of a class misfit who falls for a cheerleader features **Corey Haim** — pre-meltdown — as a little geek and **Charlie Sheen** in a nice performance as the school's athletic stud (\$14.98, Fox). Too bad the entire point of the movie — that an oddball like Lucas can find friends and prove his worth by remaining true to himself — is undercut by the absurd finale where he plays a key role in the big football game. Oh, so you actually do have to be a star athlete to gain acceptance! Sorry, nerds.

### "JACKASS"

Is "Jackass" (\$29.99, Paramount) the end of civilization as we know it? Only if you watch it twice or laugh loudly more than once.