

DVDs this week

By Michael Giltz

Bull Durham/The Usual Suspects (\$24.98 each; MGM)

"Bull Durham" is one of the best — and certainly funniest — baseball movies ever made. But the real fascination here is listening to Kevin Costner and Tim Robbins on the commentary track and wondering why time has treated them so differently. Costner was at his peak here and Robbins was just starting out. Both would direct acclaimed films, but today Costner is in a near-permanent funk and Robbins is more esteemed than ever. But don't rule Costner out — his talent and charm is so obvious here that you realize he's only one good role away from being "rediscovered." "The Usual Suspects" — a devilish crime flick — poses its own puzzle: whatever happened to Oscar-winning screenwriter Christopher McQuarrie? One fumbled script — "The Way of the Gun" in 2000 — and nothing since? Now there's a mystery.



COSTNER

All in the Family - The Complete First Season (\$39.95; Columbia)

If Archie were surrounded by smarter people, it wouldn't be fun. But Michael is just as tiresomely leftish as Archie is right (he's just better educated), Gloria pouts as much as anything, and Edith is blissfully unconcerned about "issues." Miscarriages, unemployment, bitter prejudice and — unlike "The Honeymooners" — it doesn't always end with a warm "You're the greatest" and everything returning to normal. In fact, nothing would be the same again. Genius.

Diana Krall — Live in Paris (\$24.98; Eagle Eye)

Anyone who missed Diana Krall at Radio City Music Hall over the weekend should snatch up this very good live concert from Paris. It's thoughtfully directed by David Barnard, who seems to find unexpected but appropriate camera angles on every song. Krall's latest album was liberating for her and the handful of tracks from it — "The Look of Love," etc — are among the highlights. She's switched from a jazz pianist who almost grudgingly sings to a pianist who sings and swings at the same time.

The Guy Maddin Collection

(\$34.99; Zeitgeist) Is there a more distinctive filmmaker around than Guy Maddin? Even David Lynch comes across as less original than this slightly mad Canadian. This terrific bargain of a DVD contains two feature length films: "Twilight of the Ice Nymphs" with Shelley Duvall and "Archangel," a more typical extension of his obsession with silent film. But most everyone will turn first to his brilliant six minute short "The Heart of the World," an impossibly funny and moving send-up of Soviet-era propaganda films. It alone makes this a must-buy.

Jeeves & Wooster: Third and Fourth Season Sets (\$39.95 each; A&E)

P.G. Wodehouse's delightful comedies about the hapless Wooster and his valet Jeeves will never have better interpreters than Hugh Laurie and Stephen Fry. To even describe one of the plots — Wooster trying to avoid marriage, Wooster in America — is to overburden this fluffy bit of nonsense. These episodes are not, perhaps, as absurdly silly as the first two batches of shows, but Fry and Laurie are impeccably funny.

Joe Versus the Volcano (\$19.98; Warner Bros.)

Meg Ryan has never been better than in this adorable comedy about a working stiff (Tom Hanks) who is told he has only



RYAN

months to live and embarks on a wild journey financed by a wealthy man. The catch? Hanks must throw himself into a volcano. It's a daffy story, marvelously written and directed by John Patrick Shanley of "Moonstruck." Ryan digs into four different roles with relish — the sort of star-turn we stopped seeing in the '40s. Romantic, sweet, and very, very funny.