



## **"THE OSBOURNES": THE FIRST SEASON "FATHER TED": SERIES 3**

Forget all the hoopla and just watch the first season of "The Osbournes" (\$29.99, Miramax). It's pretty hilarious, so no wonder it caught on. All credit to the editors, who shaped their ramshackle life into knowing parodies of classic sitcom fare like feuding with the neighbors and sibling rivalry. And what a great bargain, especially since Miramax knew people would be clamoring for it. The funniest extra among many is the subtitling option for **Ozzy's** mumbled dialogue. For those easily shocked, the gentler goofiness of "Father Ted" (\$34.98, BBC), which pokes fun at priests in a way even a bishop could love, has another amusing season on tap.

## **"THREE COLORS TRILOGY: BLUE, WHITE, RED"**

A landmark in cinema, the late Krzysztof Kieslowski's "Three Colors" trilogy is absolutely essential — especially at such a great price (\$39.99, Miramax). "Blue" is cool but effective, with its greatest achievement the score by **Zbigniew Preisner**. "White" is by far the weakest: a smaller comedy, but it's a part of the puzzle that doesn't come together until "Red." If you must buy only one, the masterful "Red" is it, an unshakable look at coincidence and fate.

## **"STAR TREK IV: THE VOYAGE HOME"**

It's a little too jokey for me, but this is the "Star Trek" movie for people who never really cared for "Star Trek" (\$24.99, Paramount). No wonder it's the top-grosser and the last decent film with the original cast. Lots of extras for the fanatics, though I'd rather watch "Star Trek: The Wrath of Khan" five times over than watch them make fun of themselves in this one.

## **"SALAAM BOMBAY" "CHILDREN UNDERGROUND"**

**Mira Nair** movercame snide comparisons to "Pixote" with her drama about Indian street children that scored at Cannes and was nominated for an Oscar (\$14.95, MGM). Those on her side were right, as proved by subsequent films like "Mississippi Masala" and "Bombay Wedding." For a rending documentary about abandoned kids — this time in Romania — watch "Children Underground" (\$24.95, DocuRama). But good luck trying to fall asleep peacefully after wards.

## **"THE LOST HONOR OF KATHARINA BLUM" "LA VALLEE"**

**Volker Schlöndorff's** 1975 drama is far too timely (\$29.95, Criterion). It tells of a woman accused of harboring a terrorist whose life becomes hell thanks to ruthless police and a tabloid reporter. Overwhelming state power can make you want to escape from it all, which is exactly what a diplomat's wife and some hippies do in **Barbet Schroeder's** silly "La Vallee" (\$19.95, HVE). Great score by Pink Floyd, though.

## **"SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS — LOST AT SEA" "JONAH: A VEGGIETALES MOVIE"**

More goofiness from the best cartoon on TV right now (\$19.99, Paramount). SpongeBob is the geekiest and squarest guy around in more ways than one. (He's absorbent, too.) If SpongeBob is too antic for you, the Christian-based VeggieTales series might be the ticket. This recent theatrical made a fair amount of money, comes loaded with extras and promises to enlighten while it entertains (\$24.98, Artisan). Sometimes it seems like it enlightens *instead* of entertains, but that's the price you pay for wholesomeness.

## **"TIME OUT" "ALL OR NOTHING"**

DVD is a great way to catch up with movies you missed. The well-reviewed French film "Time Out" (\$26.99, Miramax) was one I looked forward to seeing — but inexplicably, this DVD marked "Widescreen" is actually a cropped video image and therefore worthless. **Mike Leigh's** "All or Nothing," however, is given proper treatment (\$26.98, MGM). This story of three families living in run-down public housing ought to be depressing, but honesty is always exhilarating so it's one of the best movies of 2002.