

DVDs THIS WEEK

by Michael Giltz



Hunky mutant Hugh Jackman swings into action as Wolverine in "X2: X-Men United."

"X2: X-MEN UNITED" "OKLAHOMA!"

Your head will start spinning if you go see **Hugh Jackman** flouncing on Broadway as gay entertainer Peter Allen in "The Boy From Oz" and then pick up the superior sequel "X2" (\$29.98, Fox), where he plays the menacing Wolverine. All the extras in the world (and it has many) can't explain how Jackman can succeed at such different roles. But check out the British revival of "Oklahoma!" (\$24.99, Image) that made him a star when he played Curly and you'll realize Jackman can do anything.

"CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG": SPECIAL EDITION

Some childhood favorites are even better as you get older, while others bitterly disappoint when the magic is gone. Such is the case with 1968's "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" (\$29.98, MGM). That title song still sticks to your brain like gum and **Dick Van Dyke** still charms. But the story is thinner, the action more juvenile, the whole atmosphere more ramshackle and ordinary than any children's story should be.

"BATTLESTAR GALACTICA": THE COMPLETE EPIC SERIES

Can't wait for the new sci-fi miniseries "Battlestar Galactica"? Dive into the original show with this complete series set (\$119.98, Universal), which comes in a nifty case shaped like the helmet of a Cylon that's cool to look at, difficult to store and apparently hard to produce (the boxed set has been hard to find in stores, so if you see one, jump).

"THE DARK CRYSTAL": SPECIAL EDITION

Jim Henson's syndicated hit "The Muppet Show" was such a worldwide smash he was able to pursue all sorts of unlikely ventures, including this bold, ambitious fantasy from 1982, told purely through puppetry (\$49.95, Columbia TriStar). The hero is a bit bland, but the world Henson created is a creepy, distinctive and memorable place. A movie that seemed like the first of many (why not make movies with puppets, just like they make movies with animation?) proved all too rare. But this special edition (complete with a facsimile of the notebook Henson jotted down his original ideas in) does it justice.

Also out:

Oh God, another movie about the Creator, this time with **Jim Carrey** giving God a day off in "Bruce Almighty" (\$26.98, Universal); **Javier Bardem** does Oscar-worthy work while spending his "Mondays in the Sun" (\$24.99, Lions Gate); "Star Trek": The Motion Pictures DVD Collection (\$189.99, Paramount) charts a movie franchise's stiff launch, glorious success and sad final fall; post-apocalyptic cult classic "A Boy and His Dog" (\$24.95, First Run) is back on DVD with commentary from gonzo director LQ Jones; a batch of weak **Neil Simon** flicks contains one gem — Walter Matthau in 1971's clever "Plaza Suite" (\$19.99, Paramount); and **Roger Moore** and **Tony Curtis** have so much fun in the silly British cops-and-robbers show "The Persuaders" (\$79.95, A&E), they should have paid for the privilege rather than drawing a salary.

Out next week:

Johnny Depp — the sexiest man alive, apparently — is a foppish ne'er-do-well in "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl"; and cult hit "The Ben Stiller Show" gets a little respect.