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DVDs THIS WEEK

By Michael Giltz



Keanu Reeves (center) stars in "The Matrix Reloaded."

"THE MATRIX RELOADED"

It's the top-grossing R-rated film of all time, but "The Matrix Reloaded" (\$29.95, Warner Bros.), the second in the "Matrix" trilogy still seemed like a crushing disappointment — whether it was the silly rave party scene at the rebel's hideout or the decision of Neo (**Keanu Reeves**) to simply fly away like Superman after fighting an epic battle with Agent Smith clones (if he could fly away, why didn't he do so from the start?). But it's the sort of DVD that comes stuffed with extras, so fans can be happy and casual viewers don't have to watch the film all over again. Among the best: a half-hour breakdown of the freeway chase scene.

"THE ITALIAN JOB" GIFT SET

The 2003 "Italian Job" doesn't suffer from being packaged with the quirkier, better original because they're so different (\$44.92, Paramount). It's a bit bland, with **Mark Wahlberg** almost disappearing on-screen as the mastermind behind an elaborate revenge plot. (Wahlberg is better at playing offbeat roles.) But he's propped up by a terrific supporting cast, including **Mos Def**, **Edward Norton**, **Donald Sutherland** and **Seth Green** (who'll probably never have another chance to take over a role originated by Noel Coward). The original — starring **Michael Caine** — is much goofier and has a cliffhanger finale Hollywood would never try to get away with today.

"100 YEARS OF THE WORLD SERIES"

Also known as "The New York Yankees Triumph Again and Again (with guest spots from some other teams)," this compilation of five hours of footage on two DVDs (\$19.95, Q Video) is strictly for the hardcore baseball fan who wants to pore over clubhouse interviews, listen to **Bob Costas** narrate with aplomb and answer questions like "Who tossed out the ceremonial first pitch in 1959?" Yankee fans should wait a week or two to buy this so they don't jinx anything.

"COMPLETELY CARLIN"

George Carlin became famous for his skit about the words you can't say on TV. Ironically, he became more famous than ever by repeating those words on TV, albeit on cable. Thanks to 12 HBO specials, Carlin has played with words and grammar and how they reflect our attitudes toward each other with piercing humor. This offering collects five of those shows in one set (\$79.98, MPI). And it's a credit to Carlin's wit that the words may not be so shocking anymore — "Sex and the City" took care of that — but the humor is just as funny as ever.

Also out:

"Blue Car" (\$29.99, Miramax) shows **David Strathairn** as an English teacher with a very inappropriate idea of what constitutes extra credit; and "Star Trek V: The Final Frontier" (\$24.99, Paramount), which was so pompous thanks to star, co-story writer and director **William Shatner's** New Age philosophizing, it seemed like the final nail in the coffin for the original cast.

Out next week:

The complete "Battlestar Galactica" series, just in time to whet viewers' appetites for the upcoming miniseries version; "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle"; and the Holy Grail for many movie buffs, "The Adventures of Indiana Jones" boxed set.