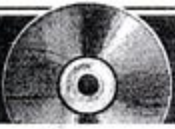


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DVDs THIS WEEK

By Michael Giltz



"ANGER MANAGEMENT" "PRIZZI'S HONOR"

Jack Nicholson and Adam Sandler go on autopilot with "Anger Management" (\$27.94, Columbia TriStar), a rather obvious comedy about a pet clothing designer (Sandler) ordered to take counseling from the wacky Jack. The only reason to watch: endless cameos by everyone from **Woody Harrelson** to **Rudy Giuliani**.

If you want classic Jack, check out 1985's "Prizzi's Honor" (\$14.95, MGM), in which he plays a very dumb hit man for the mob. Director John Huston did a bang-up job giving daughter **Anjelica Huston** the role of a lifetime and her first Oscar.

"SOAP": THE COMPLETE 1ST SEASON "THE FAMILY GUY": VOLUME TWO

A truly groundbreaking series, "Soap" (\$29.95; Columbia TriStar) starred **Billy Crystal** as the somewhat gay Jody and the great **Katherine Helmond** as the delightfully clueless Jessica. Unlike "All in the Family," its tone is so sweet that the show doesn't shock as it did when it aired in the late 1970s. But it does *still* make you laugh.

Proof that barriers have been broken: the desperately outrageous "Family Guy": Volume Two (\$49.98, Fox) offends just about everyone in every episode. And except for an old schoolteacher nemesis of creator **Seth McFarlane**, no one really complained.

"THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA"

Andrew Lloyd Webber's operatic musical is finally being made into a feature film by director **Joel Schumacher**. (And no, the now-aging **Michael Crawford** is thankfully not going to be playing the Phantom.) But it will be hard-pressed to match the grand silliness of Lon Chaney's silent classic from 1925, presented beautifully in this milestone edition (\$24.99; Image). You get two versions of the film (including the 1929 reissue with two different scores), audio commentary by historians, stills from deleted scenes and other goodies.

"RETURN OF THE SECAUCUS 7"

John Sayles has been a major force in independent films for more than 20 years, producing classics like "Matewan," "Lone Star," "Eight Men Out," "City of Hope" and "Sunshine State." His talent was clear from the start with 1980's "Return of the Secaucus 7," a no-budgeter that clearly "inspired" **Lawrence Kasdan's** "The Big Chill." His eye for talent would become even clearer with the shaky "The Brother From Another Planet" (1984) and the underrated 1983 lesbian drama "Lianna" (\$19.98 each, MGM), all of which gave early breaks to actors like **David Strathairn**, **Joe Morton**, **Bill Cobbs** and even **Chris Elliott**. All include solid commentary tracks by Sayles.

Also out:

"The Educational Archives: Patriotism" and "Religion" (\$24.95 each, Fantoma), hilarious collections of hours and hours of vintage short films shown to students with titles like "Atomic Energy Can Be a Blessing" and the classic "Duck and Cover"; "Deadline Auto Theft"/"Gone in 60 Seconds: 2" (\$19.95, NHE) features 1 1/2 movies from the '80s (a documentary about stunt legend H.B. Hallecki and enough car crashes to make "T3" seem like kiddie play); second seasons of mega-smash "CSI" (\$89.99, Paramount) and cult wannabe "Angel" (\$59.98, Fox); "Monty Python's The Meaning of Life" (\$26.98, Universal), a grab bag of sketches that holds up quite well; and "Escape to Witch Mountain" (\$24.99, Disney), an unexpected hit from 1975 about two kids with strange powers that is ripe for remake.

Out next week:

Richard Chamberlain's classic miniseries "Shogun"; the first season of WB hit "Smallville"; and folk parody "A Mighty Wind."