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SURFING THE WAVES OF POPULAR CULTURE
BY MICHAEL GILTZ & FRIENDS

MONDAY, JULY 24, 2006

DVD Special Editions Out Of Control

Sony announced today that "Bugsy: Extended Cut" will come out on October 3rd. Wonderful, but for one thing: whose extended cut? They don't mention Warren Beatty or director Barry Levinson or even screenwriter James Toback. Surely with Beatty backing him, Levinson had control over the final cut for this Oscar-winning film. Studios are churning out 'special edition' cuts of movies left and right, assuming people will just buy anything. The great thing about DVD is they don't HAVE to make us choose. It's very easy to include a theatrical release AND a director's cut (if there is such a thing) on one DVD or in a set. Odds and ends -- deleted scenes that the director didn't use and never intended to use -- shouldn't be slapped into the movie wily-nily. Include them in the extras as deleted scenes, for heaven's sake. I'll bet when they release this, the original theatrical version goes out of print and that's a travesty. The theatrical versions should ALWAYS be the primary version available on DVD except in a very few rare instances any film buff can name. (And the original version should still be available anyway.) Nowadays, finding the theatrical version is becoming harder and harder.

POSTED BY MICHAEL IN NEW YORK AT 3:17 PM



2 COMMENTS:

[priv8pete](#) said...

And yet I wait Shekhar Kapur's original 3 hour version of Four Feathers...

I'm starting to think that winter's evening in 2001 was just a fantastical dream.

4:28 PM

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