

Go jump into Lake

Surrounding himself with youngsters to imitate his old band mates, Greg Lake warms up for a 2005 concert tour on the 46-minute MVD release, **Greg Lake Welcome Backstage** (UPC#022891808190, \$20). Under the controlled conditions of the studio, the music sounds good if you can forgive what he does to Aaron Copland and few other composers too long dead to take revenge. His own *Take a Pebble*, on the other hand, is still blissfully lyrical, and his other oldies retain their energy and familiarity. It's a short, but slick production, with a solid, glossy picture, letterboxed with an aspect ratio of about 1.78:1 and an accommodation for enhanced 16:9 playback. There is both a 5.1-channel Dolby Digital track and a slightly crisper DTS track, but each one has plenty of power and clarity. There is no captioning.

Nineties burlesque

An example, albeit a lame one, of two parts being greater than the whole, both films on the RetroMedia release, **Party Nerds Toga Bash** (UPC#014381115420, \$20), are juvenile burlesques with little to offer, but while the first film, *Assault of the Party Nerds* from 1989, an **Animal House** ripoff running 84 minutes about a weakling fraternity getting the best of a jock fraternity, seems like a waste of time, the 1995 sequel, *Heavy Petting Detective*, set about five years later when the characters are attempting to make a go of it in the adult world and still coping with the same rivalries, makes effective use of the situations developed in the previous film, so that it seems much wittier than it would if it were encountered independently, and, in turn, justifies the existence of its predecessor. It runs 87 minutes. In both films, the performances are consistently over-stated and arch, and the slapstick is generally rudimentary, but there is a passable amount of nudity in each feature, and that is their essential reason for being.

Each film appears on a separate side of the platter. Both are in full screen format, with extra soft pictures but reasonably bright colors. The monophonic sound on both is adequate and there is no captioning. Both films are accompanied by commentary tracks by director Richard Gabai and several of the male and female stars of the films, laughing about their exploits but also describing how the films were made on pocket change budgets and sharing other details about the productions. *Assault* is also accompanied by a trailer, three music videos, 4 minutes of outtakes, a 6-minute interview with Gabai, a 6-minute interview with star Linnea Quigley and a 9-minute interview with star Michelle Bauer, the latter two seeming to have a healthy sense of humor about the whole thing. *Detective* has a trailer, 13 minutes of interesting behind-the-scenes footage, a 6-minute interview with former TV sensation Burt Ward, who appears in the film, and a 24-minute audio-only collection of the pop songs Gabai has written.

DVD Letter

To the Editor:

I am a regular reader and enjoy it, but was surprised by one detail in your **Pan's Labyrinth** article. You say Del Toro never explains his references about stress the movie caused him but...He mentions financing fell through at least twice, he was not allowed to use any explosives or squibs or blanks during battle scenes, the horses almost killed an actor and couldn't be trusted around talent, his original frog set had to be thrown out because the frog didn't work properly, high level industry people were predicting his casting would result in disaster, that both he and his producer gambled at least 100K of their own money in the process, etc.

The last item alone would stress out most people I know. I'm sure there were plenty of others but I thought these were sufficient to explain his reference.

—Delaney Bishop

DVD News

BLADE RUNNER REPLICATED: Warner Home Video is releasing several increasingly elaborate versions of **Blade Runner**. The first, a two-platter set, will have director Ridley Scott's new and presumably last **Final Cut**, with a commentary by Scott and two other commentary tracks by other production personnel. The second platter will have a fresh retrospective documentary. A four-platter set will feature all of that, plus the three other versions of the film released so far and a further number of production featurettes. Finally, a five-platter version will have all of that, plus what is known as the 'Workprint Version,' which will have a film historian commentary. **Troy Director's Cut** will have 30 minutes of additional footage and several production featurettes. The original **The Jazz Singer** will be accompanied by a commentary and two additional platters of early sound shorts. The 1954 **Executive Suite** will have a commentary by Oliver Stone. The re-release of **Led Zeppelin The Song Remains the Same** will include numbers not featured on the original release.

HERE'S TO YOU, MRS. ROBINSON: Yes, **The Graduate** seems to be released with new bells and whistles every semester, but the forthcoming MGM Home Entertainment **40th Anniversary Edition** will have two fresh commentary tracks, one featuring Mike Nichols and Steven Soderbergh, and one with Dustin Hoffman and Katharine Ross. There will also be fresh featurettes and a soundtrack CD.

CRITERION HEAVEN: The Criterion Collection presentation of **Days of Heaven** will have a transfer approved by Terence Malick with a new 5.1-channel Dolby Digital mix, and will have a commentary track featuring Jack Fisk and others.

NEW ENCOUNTERS: All three versions of **Close Encounters of the Third Kind** will be included on the **30th Anniversary Edition** from Sony Pictures Home Entertainment.

CALIGULA GETS THE TREATMENT: Image Entertainment will be releasing a collector's version of **Caligula** that will have three separate commentary tracks, including one with Malcolm McDowell and Helen Mirren, and all sorts of other supplementary features.

IT IS CUBA: The Milestone Film & Video and New Yorker Video release of **I Am Cuba** will be a three-platter set with documentaries about the film's production and director Mikhail Kaltozov.

USED DVDS: CEBAVideo has over 3200 used DVDs, many priced at \$5.00 each. For a catalog, call (301)292-6670.

OTHER FORMATS: The following titles have been released on HD-DVD—**Deep Purple Live at Montreux 2006**, **Santana Hymns for Peace**, **Yes Live at Montreux (Eagle Rock)**; **The Host (Magnolia)**; **The Untouchables**; **The Warriors (Paramount)**; **Fireplace Visions of Tranquility (Ryko)**; **Billy Madison**, **Bourne Identity**, **Dante's Peak**, **In Good Company**, **Nutty Professor II The Klumps**, **Scent of a Woman**, **Streets of Fire**, **The War**, **The Wedding Date (Universal)**; **Blood Diamond**, **Out for Justice**, **Purple Rain (Warner)**; **The Contract (WEA)**. The following titles have been released on Blu-Ray—**Waiting Unrated and Raw**, **Weeds Season Two (Lionsgate)**; **The Host (Magnolia)**; **The Untouchables**, **The Warriors (Paramount)**; **Flatliners**, **The Patriot**, **Premonition**, **Wild Things (Sony)**; **Out for Justice**, **Purple Rain (Warner)**.

DVD and LD Ads

(All DVD and LD Ads are 50 cents a word. Deadline is 5 business days before the end of the month. Address all ads: DVD & LD Ads, The DVD-Laser Disc Newsletter, PO Box 420, East Rockaway NY 11518-0420.)

DVD-Laser Disc Newsletter Index, covering all reviews Sep 84 to Jun 07! Download the index for free from our website, www.DVDLaser.com. D-LDN back issues are also available. Write to PO Box 420, East Rockaway NY 11518.

OVER 200 LASER TITLES NOT AVAILABLE ON DVD. FOR LIST CALL (617)361-8891 ANYTIME.

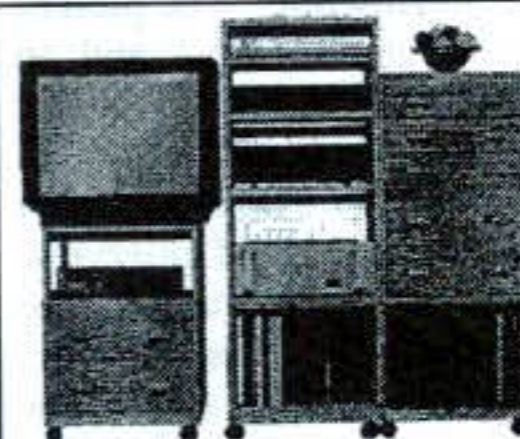
The Laser Disc Register Commemorative Catalog: The essential resource for the laser disc collector includes comprehensive data about 17,000 laser disc titles issued in the USA, over 2.5 gigabytes of data on DVD-ROM. Clear up doubts about online auction listings. Front and back cover art is included for approximately 10,000 titles. The catalog runs completely on the DVD-ROM and no software is installed on your PC. View the catalog with Internet Explorer or Netscape Browser. LD listings include: title, publisher, catalog and UPC, issue date and retail price, picture and audio specs, director and performers, packaging, supplements and extras, and version information for reissues and more. Includes a printable catalog using Adobe Acrobat. More information including screen captures online. Requires PC with DVD+R/DVD-R compatible Drive. Order NOW with VISA, DISCOVER, AMEX, or MASTERCARD on a secure e-commerce server at <http://www.dvdregister.com/DVDRBook/dvdrom.htm>

RARE LDs for sale on E-bay! New titles posted every week.

MORE THAN 3200 PREVIOUSLY-OWNED DVD'S FOR SALE AT 40% OR MORE OFF THEIR LIST PRICES. AT LEAST 600 ARE \$5.00. ALL DVD'S ARE FULLY GUARANTEED. A FREE CATALOGUE IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

CEBA VIDEO

PO BOX 44411,
FORT WASHINGTON MD 20744
(301)292-6670



DVD/CD drawers, and more
The RACKIT™ Systems by Per Madsen Design
Modular, stackable oak furniture
expands to hold any collection
Free brochure (mention DVD-LDN)
(800) 821-4883 www.rackitm.com