



FASTSCANS Top Foreign & Indie Picks

By Jeff T. Dick, Davenport, IA

Day for Night. color. 115+ min. In French w/English subtitles. Criterion Collection. 1973. DVD ISBN 9781681430355. \$29.95; Blu-ray ISBN 9781681430347. \$39.95. Rated: PG.

Famed filmmaker François Truffaut (*Jules and Jim*; *The 400 Blows*) puts himself in front of the camera as a stressed-out director on a movie shoot, dealing with an anxious young actor (Jean-Pierre Léaud) and a recently scandalized leading lady (Jacqueline Bisset), as well as an aging actress who forgets her lines, a producer worried about the budget, distracting on-set romances, and much more. The filmmaking process in all its organized chaos is on full display in this beautifully restored love letter to the cinema, abetted by a bunch of extras for reel-life buffs. [See Trailers, *LJ* 7/15.]

Dziga Vertov: The Man with the Movie Camera and Other Newly Restored Works.

b/w. 279 min. 1924–34. Blu-ray ISBN 9781893967922. \$39.95.

3-D Rarities. color & b/w. 147 min. 1922–62. Blu-ray ISBN 9781893967915. \$35.95. ea. vol: Flicker Alley.

The first Soviet feature documentary, Vertov's *Kino-Eye* uses fast-and-reverse motion, double exposures, and other optical trickery to capture "cinema truth"—

candid shots of persons unaware they're being photographed. Together with the similarly themed titular entry, it's the best of a quartet from the groundbreaking documentarian. *3-D Rarities* offers 22 curated and restored short films, promo programs, and movie trailers from 1922 to the early 1960s exemplifying enduring interest in stereoscopic cinematography. Both titles are historically significant.

The Heart Machine. color. 85 min. Kino Lorber. 2014. DVD UPC 738329196127. \$24.99.

Twentysomething New York singles freelance writer Cody (John Gallagher Jr.) and literary assistant Virginia (Kate Lyn Sheil) become romantically linked via Skype. After Cody begins to doubt Virginia's claim that she is temporarily living in Germany, he investigates her social network connections and learns she is lying. Writer-director Zachary Wigon's auspicious feature-film debut provides an acutely observed exploration of how modern technology allows false intimacy to develop between lonely people who have never met and wraps it in an interesting mystery.

Hidden Agenda. color. 108 min. Kino Lorber. 1990. DVD UPC 738329178123. \$19.95; Blu-ray UPC 738329178222. \$29.95. Rated: R.

The suspicious death of an American civil rights lawyer (Brad Dourif) in Northern Ireland triggers an inquiry by an investigator (Brian Cox), aided by a determined human-rights worker (Fran-

ces McDormand). Together they uncover evidence of a conspiracy at the highest level of British government. Former documentarian Ken Loach brings his usual sense of realism to this riveting political thriller that ought to please admirers of Costa-Gavras (*Z*; *Missing*). The bitter war between the Irish Republican Army and occupying British police has seldom been better dramatized.

In the Name of My Daughter. color. 116+ min. In French w/English subtitles. Cohen Media Group. 2014. DVD UPC 741952796695. \$24.98; Blu-ray UPC 741952796794. \$34.98. Rated: R.



Based on a true story set on the 1970s-era French Riviera, André Téchiné's tragic family drama boasts prolific screen legend Catherine Deneuve as the widowed

owner of a financially troubled casino whose estranged daughter (Adèle Haenel) betrays her over a simmering inheritance dispute. Conspiring with her mother's legal advisor (Guillaume Canet), the headstrong recent divorcée lets *l'amour fou* for the shady lawyer permit a business takeover that leads to her disappearance. In a tacked-on but satisfying epilog, a parent's decades-long quest for justice hits the jackpot.

★ **Kabbalah Me.** color. 80+ min. Steven E. Bram & Judah Lazarus, dist. by First Run Features, 800-229-8575; www.firstrunfeatures.com. 2015. DVD UPC 720229916424. \$27.95. SDH subtitles. REL

Finding one's spiritual center has become a preoccupation for many, especially among materially successful middle-aged seekers who feel something meaningful is lacking in their lives. Many have turned to studying the often-misunderstood doctrine of kabbalah, the ancient, enigmatic practices of Jewish mysticism, which has experienced an explosion in interest thanks to its popularization by such celebrities as Madonna and Demi Moore. But new followers have frequently struggled to understand kabbalah. Is it a philosophy? A religious rite? Something else? Enter filmmaker Bram. Despite his Jewish heritage, Bram knew little about kabbalah when he first developed an interest in it. But, as an avowed pursuer of meaning, he decided to investigate further, and his journey of discovery is now documented in

this informative but highly personal film. Here, Bram demonstrates how kabbalah is something different for everyone who studies it, leading us to discern the true nature of our individual selves. **VERDICT** A profoundly insightful, thoroughly captivating look at a subject with the potential to fill the voids in so many of us today.—Brent Marchant, Chicago

SOCIAL SCIENCES

The New Public. color. 87+ min. Jyllian Gunther, BCAM, LLC, dist. by Alive Mind c/o Kino Lorber, www.kinolorber.com. 2015. DVD UPC 738329156923. \$29.95. ED

Brooklyn Community Arts and Media (BCAM) is a small public high school founded in 2006 by former DJ, basketball player, and teacher James O'Brien in Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood. Along with a team of eight, O'Brien felt they could create a small school that would encourage student self-development, community involvement, and social change. With great honesty, this film chronicles the

opening year of the school and the first freshman class and their senior year. The school, a microcosm of larger public schools, is on a difficult journey as students, parents, and educators fight to get the most out of this opportunity while battling the area's poverty and crime. The film does not purport to have all the answers but shows a strong understanding of some of what can make urban education more successful: a commitment to student success, direct communication among members of the community, classroom engagement, and strong parental participation. **VERDICT** Candid and realistic, this story illustrates the problems of urban education and shares the struggles and triumphs of one school. Recommended for large urban education and sociology collections.—Ernest Jaeger, formerly with North Plainfield Schs., NJ

The Invisible Front: A Story of the Lithuanian Underground Resistance Against Soviet Oppression. b/w. 76 min. Jonas Ohman & Vincas Srouginis, dist. by Kino

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