

Video the Perfectionist's Guide to Fantastic Video

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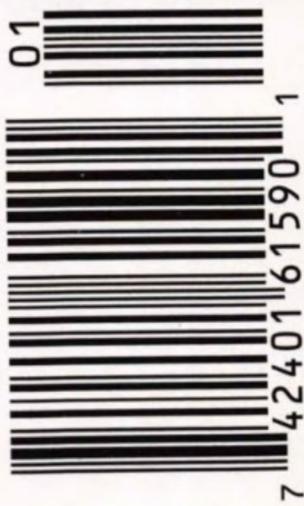


PLANET OF THE APES!

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Bruce Campbell becomes possessed by The Book of the Dead in EVIL DEAD 2.

stereo by the Radio Symphony Orchestra of Slovakia, under the direction of conductor Masatoshi Mitsumoto.

The idea of linking **CREATURE** with other “jungle” pictures may seem a bit of a stretch, but the programming of the disc is quite pleasurable. It almost takes longer to recite the names of the Tarzan music’s composers than to audit the entire suite (5m 7s), but from the opening “Fanfare (Snelly’s Cannibal Carnival)” the new and mystifying titles presented on the trayback give way to themes we immediately know and love, played with greater clarity than we’ve ever had the pleasure of hearing. My only criticism of the disc is that the Tarzan music hails from a much earlier period than the rest, and it has more of an “I’d just jitter to go to Java” attitude than the comparatively serious music that follows. To hear the **CREATURE** music rerecorded with state of the art recording techniques is quite revelatory; at times, as in “Brad Rescues

Tony,” the instrumentation provides a broader, deeper bottom that sounds far more submarine than anything heard in the movie itself, and “That Hand Again” opens with a similarly underwater sound that one now reflexively links to John Barry’s **THUNDERBALL**, though this music was written a decade earlier than the Barry score. But in many ways, the supreme moments of the disc come with Gertz’s score for **THE ALLIGATOR PEOPLE**, which opens with a **CREATURE**-like reprise, and then settles into an inviting delirium that braids the melancholia of Salter’s **INCREDIBLE SHRINKING MAN** score with what sounds like “hypnotism” music—reaching a scary crescendo of waspish brass and a haunting, floating, solo electric violin in “Get That Gator.” Had it been tied to a better picture, this would certainly be remembered today as a classic and imaginative horror score. Five bonus cues from **CREATURE** and **ALLIGATOR PEOPLE** are also provided.

The CD is packaged with a 40-page illustrated booklet written by David Schechter, which discusses the films, the scores and their composers in gratifying detail; the text is often specific to individual musical passages and provide time codes for instant audio access. (You don’t find articles of this depth even in magazines devoted to movie music.) Pages of original manuscript are pictured, as well as shots of the composers and color photos of the Creature suit.

Order by calling Monstrous Movie Music at (1-800) 788-0892 or (818) 886-8863, fax to (818) 886-8820, or visit their website at www.mmmrecordings.com. —Tim Lucas

For the Deadite Who Has Everything

Anchor Bay Entertainment has reissued Sam Raimi’s **EVIL DEAD 2** [reviewed VW 45:51] on DVD in a Special Collector’s

Edition (#DV11188, \$29.98) and a Special Collector's Limited Edition Tin (#DV11189, \$39.98), the latter issued in a numbered series of 50,000 copies.

Replacing the film's Arabic numeral in the title with the Roman numerals used in the film's opening title sequence, ABE's **EVIL DEAD 2** DVD release presents the film in both full-frame and letterboxed versions, the latter at 1.47:1 with 16:9 enhancement, and sound options in DD-5.1 or 2.0 (previous releases were in original mono). ABE previously released **EVIL DEAD 2** on DVD in 1998 (#DV10504) in a no-frills edition, using the same transfer that had been used on Elite Entertainment's "blood red" laserdisc from earlier that year, but with the commentary track by star Bruce Campbell, director Sam Raimi, co-writer Scott Spiegel and special make-up effects supervisor Greg Nicotero deleted. The 1m 32s theatrical trailer was the earlier DVD's sole supplement (also one of the supplements on the Elite LD), which in fact runs 8s longer than the trailer on the new Collector's Edition(s), which cuts off before the film's title fades in at the end! Moreover, the transfer used on the new Collector's discs is different to the one used on the earlier ABE disc: unfortunately, it severely crops the top and bottom of the frame without adding much to the sides. It is also a tad darker and less colorful than the earlier ABE DVD issue, thus making us prefer the presentation on the 1998 DVD in this case. (The full-frame presentation on the new editions reveals just how severely the image has been cropped.)

Because the new transfer is no improvement over earlier issues, collectors will want the Special Collector's Editions solely for the supplements, no doubt the



"Ed Wood DVDs? Gimme!" Vampira (Maila Nurmi) in *PLAN 9 FROM OUTER SPACE*.

marketing idea in the first place. The Collector's Edition(s) restore the engaging commentary originally recorded for the Elite LD, while also including a 31m 48s behind-the-scenes documentary, *THE GORE THE MERRIER*, different than the 27m 35s documentary (*BEHIND THE SCREAMS*) found on the Elite LD, although on occasion it uses some of the same footage. The soundtrack also offers two new, lively sound mixes, in DD 5.1 and 2.0.

The Collector's editions also offer a preview of the "Evil Dead: Hail to the King" video game, as well as still galleries and bios for Raimi and Campbell. The Limited Edition Tin includes a 48-page color booklet with requisite behind-the-scenes stills, which also includes statements by star Bruce Campbell (how many times is he going to be asked to do this?). The Tin also includes ABE's signature 5x7 poster art card insert. The discs are closed captioned. —Rebecca & Sam Umland

So... How's the DVD?

As we did last issue, we are presenting here capsule reviews of a few of the many intriguing DVDs that have come out recently but haven't been covered in our Discs section, many of which have been reviewed on VHS in past issues.

BRIDE OF THE MONSTER

1956, Corinth/Image
#ID8600CODVD, DD-1.0/+,
\$24.99, 68m 33s, DVD-A

GLEN OR GLENDA?

aka *I LED 2 LIVES*
aka *I CHANGED MY SEX*
1953, Corinth/Image
#ID8578CODVD, DD-1.0/+,
\$24.99, 68m 24s, DVD-A

JAIL BAIT

1954, Corinth/Image
#ID8601CODVD, DD-1.0/+,
\$24.99, 71m 7s, DVD-A