

'You Don't Mess With the Zohan' tops DVD releases

By Richard T. Ryan

Newhouse News Service

The following motion pictures will be available on DVD today:

"You Don't Mess With the Zohan," Sony Pictures Home Entertainment, 117 minutes, rated PG-13 for crude and sexual content throughout, language and nudity — A Mossad agent, Zohan (Adam Sandler) is almost invulnerable, but beneath the macho exterior lurks a softer side. After faking his death in a fight with the Phantom (John Turturro), Zohan moves to New York and becomes a hairdresser. Giving all his customers "special service," Zohan is soon more popular than Paul Mitchell, but when he's recognized by an old foe, his career and friends are all in jeopardy. This has to be one of the strangest films I have ever seen. Extras on the two-disc edition include 15 featurettes and a digital copy.

"The Happening," 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment, 90 minutes, rated R for violent and disturbing images — On a summer's day in Central Park, thousands of New Yorkers come to a sudden standstill and then begin killing themselves. Suddenly the whole Northeast is on alert, and in Philadelphia a science teacher (Mark Wahlberg) and his wife (Zooey Deschanel) flee the city with a friend's daughter in tow. The film works reasonably well and the ending is terrific, but the "villain" may disappoint viewers. Bonus material includes a gag reel,

deleted scenes and a "making-of" documentary; the Blu-ray version comes with a digital copy.

"Boy A," the Miriam Collection, 106 minutes, rated R for language, sexuality, some disturbing content and brief drug use — After being released from prison for a horrific crime that he committed as a child, "Jack" is determined to make a fresh start and put his past behind him. Things are going well until the press is tipped off about his whereabouts. Now everything he has worked for is in jeopardy unless he can somehow reconcile the two very different parts of his life. Shot in Britain, this is a terrific film that should find an audience in America as well. There are no extras on the disc.

"Joy Ride 2: Dead Ahead," 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment, 91 minutes, not rated — After their car breaks down, four young people heading for Vegas "borrow" a car from what appears to be a deserted house. Their actions anger a sadistic trucker named Rusty Nail who is determined to make them pay for taking his ride. Filled with scenes of torture and mutilation, this is definitely not a film for the squeamish. Extras include two behind-the-scenes featurettes as well as an inside look at the gory special effects.

"20 Years After," MTI Home Video, 95 minutes, rated R for some violence — In a post-apocalyptic future, no children have

been born for years. While Sarah is expecting, there are others conspiring to take her child. All kinds of plots and subplots are at work here, and nothing is ever really explained. Bonus features include a director's commentary and a behind-the-scenes featurette.

The best of the rest;

"The Visitor" — A college professor travels to Manhattan for a conference and finds two illegal immigrants living in his apartment.

"Spirit of the Marathon" — The documentary follows five runners — three amateurs and two elites — as they train for the Chicago Marathon.

"Feast 2: Sloppy Seconds" — The monsters from the original have made it into a small town and the locals have to band with the survivors from the bar in order to survive.

"The Memory Keeper's Daughter" — When a twin is born with Down syndrome, a husband lies to his wife and tells her the girl was stillborn.

"The Adventures of Food Boy" — A teenage boy suddenly finds that he possesses the ability to make food appear in his hands.

Universal is releasing new versions of four classic films. Topping the list is a 50th anniversary edition of Orson Welles' "Touch of Evil." The two-disc set (\$26.98) contains all three versions of the film as well as a copy of the 57-page memo Welles wrote after viewing the rough cut of the film.



Also arriving are special editions of three Hitchcock classics — “Psycho,” “Vertigo” and “Rear Window” — priced at \$26.98 each. Loaded with special features, these motion pictures were all listed among the American Film Institute’s Top 100 Films.

At the same time Walt Disney is releasing a special two-disc Platinum Edition marking the 50th anniversary of “Sleeping Beauty.” The Blu-ray version (three discs, \$34.99) contains a bonus standard definition DVD of the film. Among the many extras are an alternate opening, a making-of featurette, four deleted songs and two new

games. The standard version is \$29.99 and the Blu-ray edition is \$35.99.

Acorn continues to release interesting titles. “Mobile” is a thriller about the hunt for a madman blowing up mobile phone towers all across England (two discs, \$39.99).

Also due out is a production of “Mister Roberts” starring Robert Hayes, Charles Durning, Kevin Bacon, Howard Hesseman and Marilu Henner for \$24.99.

Blu-ray titles arriving this week include new titles “You Don’t Mess With the Zohan” (\$38.95), “The Happening” (\$39.99) and “The Visitor” (\$39.98). Also

arriving are the catalog titles “Body Heat” (\$28.99) and “Young Frankenstein” (\$39.98).

With Halloween on the horizon, there’s no shortage of horror titles. You can find “The Amityville Horror” (\$38.98), “Carrie” (\$39.98), “Beetlejuice” (\$34.99), “Interview With the Vampire” (\$28.99), “The Omen” (\$34.98), “The Omen Collection” (four discs, \$129.98) as well as “Rest Stop: Dead Ahead” and “Rest Stop: Don’t Look Back” (\$28.99 each).

Finally, you can pick up the “Ray Harryhausen Collection,” which includes “20 Million Miles to Earth,” “Earth vs. Flying Saucers,”

“It Came From Beneath the Sea,” and “The 7th Voyage of Sinbad” on four discs for \$107.95.

Upcoming on home video: “Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull” (Oct. 14); “Anaconda 3” and “The Strangers” (Oct. 21); “Journey to the Center of the Earth” (Oct. 28); “Get Smart” (Nov. 4); “Hellboy II: The Golden Army” (Nov. 11); “Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2” and “Wall-E” (Nov. 18); “Dark Knight” and “Dr. Seuss’ Horton Hears a Who!” (Dec. 9); “Hancock,” “Meet Dave,” “Space Chimps” and “Fred Claus” (Nov. 25). ||