

TIPSHEET REVIEWS

VB REVIEWS NEW RELEASES
EDITED BY LAURENCE LERMAN

Adventures of Johnny Tao

There's terrific pedigree in this action fantasy, including the director, Kenn Scott (he was Raphael the Ninja Turtle); Marcus Young (*xXx: State of the Union*), credited as the "action producer"; and the CGI producer Richard Kidd (*The Matrix*, *Titanic*). The reported \$1 million budget is all on the screen in this fast-moving saga involving an ancient magic spear, which has wound up as an ornament on desert garage attendant/Kung Fu fan Johnny Dow's (Matthew Twining) electric guitar. An evil spirit wants the amulet and transforms a band of bikers into crazed zombies to do its bidding. The lively fight sequences are a lot of fun, some of them using wire work and all of them showcasing superbly edited stunts.

Shelf Talk: MTI is rightly putting a push behind this impressive pickup, targeting martial arts magazines and other venues where the demographic is likely to reside (YouTube, MySpace, movie blogs, etc.). —*Buzz McClain*
Color, PG-13 (fighting violence), 90 min., DVD \$24.95

Extras: commentary, behind-the-scenes footage, deleted scenes, music video

Director: Kenn Scott
First Run: DVD premiere

MTI

STREET: JULY 29
PREBOOK: NOW

> A family action-adventure that's entertaining for all ages.



Matthew Twining takes on the baddies in *Adventures of Johnny Tao*.