

# DVD collection a Halloween treat

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With Halloween on the horizon, check out "Ghost House Underground," a collection of eight films compiled by Sam Raimi and Rob Tapert, the creative forces behind "30 Days of Night" and the "Spiderman," "Grudge" and "Evil Dead" franchises.

Priced at \$159.98, the set, which offers a look at horror films from around the world, includes "Dance of the Dead,"

"No Man's Land: The Rise of the Reeker," "The

Substitute," "Dark Floors," "Trackman," "Room 205," "Last House in the Woods" and "Brotherhood of Blood." Individual titles are priced at \$19.98 each.

Timed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of NASA, A&E Home Video is releasing the complete second season of "The Universe" (five discs, \$44.95).

Blending astronomy and history, the discs provide a number of insights into the "Eureka!" moments of celestial understanding. The set features all 18 original episodes and 30 minutes of never-before-seen bonus programming.

With stunning computer reconstructions, viewers get a front-row seat to the hottest events in the galaxy, from colliding celestial bodies to collapsing suns, from distant, possibly viable planets to mysteries that defy explanation. If you've ever wondered what "dark matter" really is, this is the set for you.

And for those who can't get enough of politics, Arts Engine is releasing its 10-year anniversary collection (\$99.95). The new DVD box set contains a number of highly acclaimed, yet previously

hard-to-find, feature-length documentaries and short films of the past decade.

Among the titles featured in the collection are "Election Day," which examines the state of democracy in the U.S. today; "Deadline," an Emmy-nominated look at capital punishment in America; "Outside Looking In," an examination of the complexities of trans-racial adoption; and "Nuyorican Dream," which chronicles a Puerto Rican family struggling to overcome poverty in Brooklyn.

The following motion pictures are available this week on home video:

■ **"Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull,"** Paramount Home Video, 122 minutes, rated PG-13 for adventure violence and scary images

— In this latest installment, Indiana Jones (Harrison Ford) finds himself fighting the KGB for control of a weapon that endows a person with paranormal power.

It's a wild ride, and in the last half-hour things really get crazy. The all-star cast includes Cate Blanchett, Ray Winstone, Karen Allen, Jim Broadbent, John Hurt and Shia LaBeouf.

■ **"Mongol: The Rise of Genghis Khan,"** New Line Home Entertainment, 126 minutes, rated R for sequences of bloody warfare

— The film purports to detail the early years of Genghis Khan, who was sold into slavery before he escaped to conquer half the world. The film tries to blend romance and battle, all the while undercutting the image of Genghis Khan as a bloodthirsty tyrant.

It's an interesting film and stunningly photographed, but there are some scenes that seem as endless as the steppes on which they were filmed.

■ **"Forfeit,"** MTI Home Video, 84 min-

utes, rated R for language — Frank (Billy Burke) is an ex-con who's fallen under the spell of a televangelist. In an effort to right past wrongs against him, he plots an armored car robbery, all the while setting up his old girlfriend to take the fall.

It's a flawed but interesting thriller with a cast that includes a few faces familiar to TV lovers — Sherry Stringfield and Wayne Knight.

■ **"Stuck,"** Image Entertainment, 85 minutes, rated R for strong violence, disturbing content, sexuality/nudity, language and drug use

— The film is based on a real event in which Chante Mallard, a woman in Fort Worth, Texas, was believed driving drunk when she struck a homeless man, who became lodged in her car's windshield. She then drove home, locked the car in the garage, and left the man to die.

The film takes a lot of liberties with the basic events and casts the victim (Stephen Rea) as an adversary to hard-partying Brandi (Mena Suvari). Worth a look if you're in the mood for something really different.

■ **"Waltzing Anna,"** Peace Arch Entertainment, 101 minutes, rated PG-13 for some crude humor and drug material

— After his license is suspended for illegally billing senior citizens, Dr. Charlie Keegan must do six months community service at the Shady Pines Nursing Home. He soon discovers a scam that's better than the one he was running and patients that are treated with little respect and less dignity.

Although the film owes a considerable debt to "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," it's still a delight to watch. ❖





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**Harrison Ford plays archaeologist and adventurer Indiana Jones in "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull."**