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'Dirty Harry' box set sure to make fan's day

All five films are being re-released with extras, but no commentary from star Eastwood

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Published on Sunday, Jun 01, 2008

Clint Eastwood just turned 78. He's a renowned director and a respected actor. And when you look at his resume, sooner or later you have to deal with two words.

Dirty Harry.

As iconic as Eastwood was as the Man With No Name in three movies for director Sergio Leone, he was even more so as Harry Callahan, the San Francisco police inspector Eastwood played in five movies between 1971 and 1988.

All five of those movies — *Dirty Harry*, *Magnum Force*, *The Enforcer*, *Sudden Impact* and *The Dead Pool* — have managed to echo to varying degrees in popular culture. *Dirty Harry* gave us the "do I feel lucky today?" monologue, for example. *Magnum Force* asked audiences to rethink the seeming vigilante attitude of the first movie — and offered another catchphrase, "A man's got to know his limitations."

The Enforcer had Tyne Daly proving she was as tough as any male cop, including Harry, six years before *Cagney & Lacey*. Then-President Ronald Reagan borrowed "Go ahead. Make my day," from *Sudden Impact*. *The Dead Pool* had a young actor named Jim Carrey in a brief but memorable role that included his lip-syncing to *Welcome to the Jungle*.

DVD features

Are you feeling the need to head to DVD shelves for them? Well, all five movies have been released, including in a five-movie box set in 2001. But they're getting new DVD treatment, both individually and collectively, in stores Tuesday.

Collections first: *Dirty Harry: Ultimate Collector's Edition* (Warner Home Video, \$59.95 on standard DVD, \$99.95 on high-definition Blu-ray) includes all five films, with *Dirty Harry* in an extensive "ultimate edition" (two discs on standard DVD) and the others in single-disc "deluxe editions."

The box also has a separate Eastwood documentary, a 40-page book, a replica of Harry's badge and other materials.

If you just want the individual movies, they are being released separately. *Dirty Harry's* ultimate edition is \$14.95 on standard DVD, \$26.95 on Blu-ray. The others' deluxe editions are about \$10 each but only on standard DVD.

The extras with the movies are a mixed lot, including new features and some archival pieces. Eastwood is interviewed for some production segments but does not do an audio commentary on any of the films, including *Sudden Impact*, which he directed.

Instead, you get Eastwood biographer and friend Richard Schickel commenting on *Dirty Harry* and *Sudden Impact*; *Magnum Force* co-writer John Milius on that film, director James Fargo on *Sudden Impact*, and producer David Valdes and cinematographer Jack N. Green on *The Dead Pool*.

Some entertainment here and there, as when Valdes and Green discuss the body count in *The Dead Pool* and what Carrey was like to work with, or Fargo describing how he got the job on *Sudden Impact*, or Schickel noting how Eastwood came back to *Sudden Impact* after a seven-year hiatus from Dirty Harry movies.

First remains a classic

But there's still the question of which movies to see. If you're only going to watch one, see the original. Directed by Don Siegel, who

was one of Eastwood's mentors, it's a gritty and engrossing piece of filmmaking, and would still be well remembered without four sequels. It's also a discomfiting meditation on law and justice, setting the stage for later, inferior pieces like Charles Bronson's *Death Wish*.

Magnum Force is a much lesser work than the first film, even though it asks some tough questions about how far Harry — or anyone else — should go to stop crime. *The Enforcer* is more comic (and cartoonlike) than its predecessors, but it's great to watch Daly and Eastwood together. *Sudden Impact* is another challenge to Harry's feelings, very dark — and has far more going for it than you'd think from the public focus on the "make my day" scene. *The Dead Pool* is in a lot of respects just a curiosity, notable for the presence of both Carey and a young Liam Neeson, but it also offers some thoughts about modern celebrity, including Harry's — and, by extension, Eastwood's.

All right, so I have seen them all at one time or another. And I expect to see them all again. And even on standard DVD, these remastered versions are clear and bright, no matter how unsatisfying their film tales may be.

Other movie news

Also of movie note on Tuesday is *Semi-Pro* (New Line), being offered as a single standard DVD (\$28.98), a two-disc "let's get sweaty" edition (\$34.99) with R-rated and unrated versions, and in a Blu-ray package (\$38.98) that includes all the standard two-disc extras and a couple more.

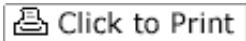
But while it's nice that the movie has been so well packaged, the problem is that *Semi-Pro* itself isn't very good. Will Ferrell stars as the owner, coach and star of the Flint Tropics, a team in the old American Basketball Association. As the ABA prepares to merge with the NBA, it looks as if Flint will have to disband — unless Ferrell's character can find a way to save the day.

That basic premise recalls *Slap Shot*, the far better sports movie starring Paul Newman, but the premise is really just an excuse for disjointed bits with Ferrell. He has done well with sports themes before, including in *Talladega Nights* and *Blades of Glory*. But this has a laugh here and there and painfully long stretches of boredom.

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