

"What else is ballast for?" - Superman II (1980)

about | advertise | classifieds | legal | myspace | staff | submit for review | support



True Indie Films on DVD!



FILM THREAT BACK TALK BLOGS DVD SHOP

- headlines
- reviews
- videos
- interviews
- features
- festivals

FREE Weekly Newsletter

your email here

sign up / manage

Movie Reviews
Movie reviews, showtimes, tickets and more from The New York Times www.nytimes.com

What Just Happened
Love No Country For Old Men? You Will Love This Film. See Trailer www.WhatJustHappened.com

L.A. CONFIDENTIAL: TWO-DISC SPECIAL EDITION (DVD)

by Brad Cook (2008-09-23) 2008, Rated R, 138 minutes, Warner Home Video



Watching "L.A. Confidential" for the first time since its original DVD release, I was struck by its vivid use of archetypes. We have characters as archetypes: the young idealist, the vengeful tough guy, the hard-ass police captain, the loose cannon who's close to earning his pension, the sleazy tabloid reporter, and so forth. We have locations as archetypes, in particular L.A. of the 1950s in all its Technicolor glory. And we even have a story trope as archetype: the buddy cop movie in which the two leads are woefully mismatched.

The film, however, turns those archetypes upside-down, revealing new truths about its characters, exposing L.A.'s seedy underbelly, and using three radically different main characters who are paired off as buddies at various times, depending on the story's needs. The plot, which was adapted from James Ellroy's novel, takes us on a rollercoaster ride, although the secret concealed at its heart is by-the-numbers, and the ending has a deus ex machina element that thankfully doesn't undercut the climax. I should also point out that "L.A. Confidential" catapulted its three male stars' careers to greater heights.

Disc one includes a group commentary with film critic Andrew Sarris, co-writer Brian Koppelman, Ellroy, Russell Crowe, Kevin Spacey, Guy Pearce, and other members of the cast and crew. They didn't record the track at the same time, which was a good idea, since many group commentaries tend to devolve into the participants goofing around with each other. A text tag lets us know who's talking, a helpful technique that also doesn't show up in a lot of group commentaries. You can listen to Jerry Goldsmith's isolated score and view various trailers and TV spots.

Over on disc two, everything from the original DVD release is included: the making-of featurette "Off the Record;" director Curtis Hanson's photo pitch, which used various vintage photos and other materials to show executives the look and feel he was going for; and an interactive map on which you can click to learn more about the movie's locations. On top of that, we have another 90 minutes of new material that digs even deeper: "Whatever You Desire: Making 'L.A. Confidential,'"

Search



DOLPHINS PLAYING WITH BUBBLE RINGS
DUEL CLUB
BRANDON HARDESTY: "CLERKS" RE-ENACTMENT
MORE VIDEOS...

Latest Blogs
ANYTHING CHRIS NOLAN CAN DO, MICHAEL BAY CAN DO BETTER?
WHEN THE SIDEWALK ENDS...
FANTICIPATION: ZACK AND MIRI MAKE A PORN
A TALE OF TWO "W" TRAILERS...
"BLADE RUNNER 2"!?! WRITTEN BY THE GUYS BEHIND "EAGLE EYE"!?! UGH...

NEW ON DVD THIS WEEK!
BIGGER, STRONGER, FASTER CHAPTER 27
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL
IRON MAN
LOU REED'S BERLIN
IRON MAN: ULTIMATE 2-DISC EDITION (DVD)

Box Office table with columns for rank, title, weekend of September 26 - 28, and box office amount.

In Theaters
MIRACLE AT ST. ANNA
EAGLE EYE
MISTER FOE (HALLAM FOE)
LAKEVIEW TERRACE

"Sunlight and Shadow: The Visual Style," "A True Ensemble: The Cast," and "Book to Screen." They're all pretty self-explanatory. Warner Bros. brought in Hanson, all of the major cast members, Ellroy, costume designer Ruth Myers, cinematographer Dante Spinotti, and others to look back on their experiences. As a result, we get a very comprehensive look at the [making of the film](#).

Disc two also features the 2000 pilot for an "L.A. Confidential" TV series, which stars Keifer Sutherland as Jack Vincennes. It only takes five or ten minutes to see why the series wasn't picked up; this is something worth watching only as a curiosity. Finally, Warner Bros. threw in a CD sampler of six songs from the film.

Unlike some double-dips, this is a Special Edition worthy of its name.

[comment](#)
[archive](#)
[digg](#)
[print](#)
[email](#)

Leave Comments:

UserName:

Password:

If you do not have a UserName or Password, [register with Film Threat](#).

Comment:

Enter the text in the below image in the following space:



All HTML and other coding languages are stripped from the comments, so any added links or special text formatting will not be active.

Read more reviews ...

2008-10-01 - [HANAH'S GIFT](#)

2008-09-30 - [SLIPPERY SLOPE \(DVD\)](#)

2008-09-29 - [IRON MAN: ULTIMATE 2-DISC EDITION \(DVD\)](#)

2008-09-29 - [THE LODGE \(DVD\)](#)

2008-09-28 - [MIRACLE AT ST. ANNA](#)

2008-09-28 - [WIENER TAKES ALL: A DOGUMENTARY](#)

2008-09-27 - [COMMITTING POETRY IN TIMES OF WAR](#)

2008-09-26 - [EAGLE EYE](#)

2008-09-25 - [PERFECT RED](#)

2008-09-25 - [MISTER FOE \(HALLAM FOE\)](#)

2008-09-24 - [ON THE ECSTASY OF SKI-FLYING: WERNER HERZOG IN CONVERSATION WITH KAREN BECKMAN \(DVD\)](#)

2008-09-24 - [PATHS OF GLORY](#)

2008-09-23 - [L.A. CONFIDENTIAL: TWO-DISC SPECIAL EDITION \(DVD\)](#)

2008-09-23 - [THE GODFATHER: THE COPPOLA RESTORATION \(DVD\)](#)

2008-09-22 - [THE MAXWELL MULTIPLE CLIMAX \(DVD\)](#)

2008-09-21 - [LAKEVIEW TERRACE](#)

2008-09-21 - [WATCH OUT](#)

2008-09-20 - [I SAVED THE WORLD FROM GLOBAL WARMING!](#)

2008-09-19 - [IGOR](#)

2008-09-19 - [THE UNKNOWN WOMAN](#)

[LAKEVIEW TERRACE](#)
[IGOR](#)
[LOINS OF PUNJAB PRESENTS](#)
[BURN AFTER READING](#)
[RIGHTEOUS KILL](#)
[PHOEBE IN WONDERLAND](#)
[TOWELHEAD](#)



Film Threat Poll

Which Paul Newman role is your favorite?

- 1) Brick Pollitt, "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof"
- 2) Eddie Felson, "The Hustler" and "The Color of Money"
- 3) Hud Bannon, "Hud"
- 4) Luke, "[Cool Hand Luke](#)"
- 5) Butch Cassidy, "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid"
- 6) Henry Gondorff, "The Sting"
- 7) Reggie Dunlop, "Slap Shot"
- 8) Sidney J. Mussburger, "The Hudsucker Proxy"
- 9) Sully Sullivan, "Nobody's Fool"
- 10) John Rooney, "[Road to Perdition](#)"
- 11) Doc Hudson, "Cars"

- [2008-09-19 - HOUNDDOG](#)
- [2008-09-18 - RADIO CAPE COD](#)
- [2008-09-17 - LOINS OF PUNJAB PRESENTS](#)
- [2008-09-16 - LONDON BETTY](#)
- [2008-09-15 - LIFE SENTENCE](#)



Site Programming
DaFloppMeistah
Productions

Site Artwork



copyright © 1985-2008
Gore Group Publications

[about](#) | [advertise](#) | [classifieds](#) | [legal](#) | [myspace](#) | [staff](#) | [submit for review](#) | [support](#)