



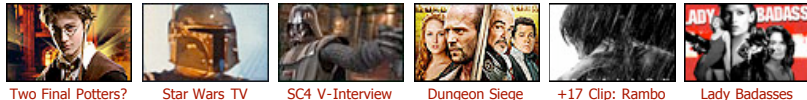
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Warner Home Video Director's Series: Stanley Kubrick

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Warner Home Video Directors Series: Stanley Kubrick DVD Review

by Todd Gilchrist

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The Video

Unlike previous DVD incarnations of these films, the *Warner Home Video Directors Series: Stanley Kubrick* set claims to present each of Kubrick's works as they were originally intended, which basically means that they are all widescreen and anamorphic. To put to rest some of the possible controversy over this new formatting, Kubrick originally wanted his films to be presented full screen on television because he didn't like letterboxing; with the advent of 16:9 televisions, his movies can at long last be presented in their correct aspect ratio and in particular faithful to their original theatrical presentation. (Presented.)



2001: *A Space Odyssey* is presented in anamorphic widescreen format (2.20:1), which maintains the presentation of previous DVDs. *A Clockwork Orange* is presented in anamorphic widescreen (1.66:1) which maintains the presentation of previous DVDs. *The Shining* is presented in anamorphic widescreen (1.85:1) for the first time, maintaining the

DVD Details for Warner Home Video Director's...

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MPAA Rating: R
MSRP:
 US: \$79.92
Publisher: Warner Home Video
Genre: Drama
Release Date:
 US: October 23, 2007

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Ratings for Warner Home Video Director's Series...

9.0
 Outstanding

6 ratings | 0 reader reviews

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original theatrical presentation. *Full Metal Jacket* is presented in anamorphic widescreen (1.66:1) for the first time, preserving the aspect ratio of the original theatrical presentation. And *Eyes Wide Shut* is presented in anamorphic widescreen (1.66:1) for the first time, preserving the aspect ratio of the original theatrical presentation. Meanwhile, the documentary *Stanley Kubrick: A Life in Pictures* is presented in anamorphic widescreen (1.85:1) for the general documentary material, while the clips remain accurate to each film.

Comparing previous versions of these films, there are immediately noticeable improvements in the picture quality of pretty much all of the films: in the opening shot of *A Clockwork Orange*, for example, the black tones have completely been solidified where they were splotchy and inconsistent before. Colors are clearer, cleaner and in better focus; the overall brightness has been improved without sacrificing Kubrick's meticulous sense of tone and ambience; and the consistency and fidelity to Kubrick's vision is ultimately better preserved. In short, this is the best these films will likely ever look on standard-definition DVD, and are worthy enough transfers to justify replacing your previous discs.

Score: 9 out of 10



The Audio

Audio options for all five films are as follows: English Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround Sound, French Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround Sound. *The Shining* and *Full Metal Jacket* also feature a Spanish-language Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround Sound track. *Stanley Kubrick: A Life in Pictures* features only an English-language Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround Sound track.

The English-language tracks are essentially the same as on previous DVDs, which were by and large more than sufficient in translating the audio of each film. In particular, *2001* probably sounds the best, if only because the sound was originally so carefully designed; during the space sequences where you can only hear the astronauts' breathing, for example, the audio is so clear that it becomes almost claustrophobic, even against the vastness of space. Ultimately, the audio presentation more than satisfies the demands of each film and provides audiences with a well-rounded and well-rendered sound experience.

Score: 10 out of 10



Extras and Packaging

Warner Home Video Directors Series: Stanley Kubrick comes in a collection of six Amaray cases with paper inserts featuring plot synopses, lists of bonus materials and technical information about each film. *2001*, *A Clockwork Orange*, *The Shining*, and *Eyes Wide Shut* are each two-disc sets, and the second disc is attached on a hinged tray in

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the middle of its respective case. The cases also come in a slipcase, although none of the films feature individual slipcases; in other words, the artwork on the individual two-disc sets is different than on these plastic cases.

Warner Home Video Directors Series: Stanley Kubrick features the following bonus content:

- **2001: A Space Odyssey**
 - Commentary by Keir Dullea and Gary Lockwood
 - Theatrical trailer
 - Documentary: *2001: The Making of a Myth*
 - Featurette: *Standing on the Shoulders of Kubrick: The Legacy of 2001*
 - Featurette: *Vision of a Future Passed: The Prophecy of 2001*
 - Featurette: *2001: A Space Odyssey - A Look Behind the Future*
 - Featurette: *What Is Out There?*
 - *2001: FX and Early Conceptual Artwork*
 - *Look: Stanley Kubrick!*
 - Audio interview: Stanley Kubrick interview conducted by Jeremy Bernstein
- **A Clockwork Orange**
 - Commentary by Malcolm McDowell and historian Nick Redman
 - Theatrical trailer
 - Documentary: *Still Tickin': The Return of Clockwork Orange*
 - Featurette: *Great Bolshy Yarblookos!: Making A Clockwork Orange*
 - Career profile: *O Lucky Malcolm!*
- **The Shining**
 - Commentary by steadicam inventor/ operator Garrett Brown and historian John Baxter
 - Theatrical trailer
 - Documentary: *The Making of The Shining* with optional commentary by director Vivian Kubrick
 - Featurette: *View From the Overlook: Crafting The Shining*
 - Featurette: *The Visions of Stanley Kubrick*
 - Featurette: *Wendy Carlos, Composer*



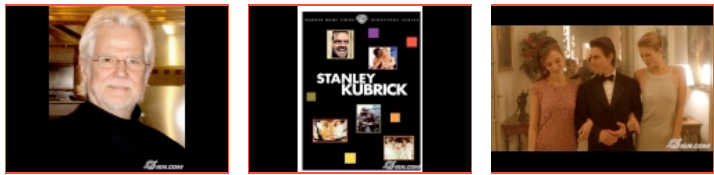
- **Full Metal Jacket**
 - Commentary by Adam Baldwin, Vincent D'Onofrio, R. Lee Ermey and critic/ screenwriter Jay Cocks
 - Featurette: *Full Metal Jacket: Between Good and Evil*
 - Theatrical trailer
- **Eyes Wide Shut**
 - Unrated version of the film
 - Documentary: *The Last Movie: Stanley Kubrick and Eyes Wide Shut*
 - Featurette: *Lost Kubrick: The Unfinished Films of Stanley Kubrick*
 - Interview gallery: Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman, Steven Spielberg
 - Kubrick's 1998 Director's Guild of America D.W. Griffith Award acceptance speech
 - Theatrical trailer
 - TV spots

I'm not going to go through every featurette and documentary one by one, but suffice it to say that this set provides what I consider the most comprehensive and complete analysis on the included films ever produced. *2001* includes by far the most in-depth extras of any of the films, and rightfully so: not only do the DVD producers address the process of

producing the groundbreaking science fiction film, but they explore its impact, its accuracy and most interestingly its philosophical underpinnings. In fact, only the latter seems slightly excessive, since it's a veritable master-class examination of existential and scientific theories, but its existence makes the rest of the sets feel slightly underdeveloped by comparison, if only because this is the most intellectually challenging of any extras on any of the films.

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I give 2001 a 10/10, ClockWork Orange a 9.5/10, The Shinning a 9/10, Full Metal Jacket a 9/10, Eyes Wide Shut a 10/10 and the Documentary a 8/10.

You Must Get This Movie-Set ASAP!

Posted by: [Julio_OG](#) on November 25, 2007 14:01 PDT

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never heard of it!



Posted by: [NHL426](#) on November 10, 2007 08:57 PDT

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No Dr. Strangelove? I love the films but I really wish that were involved in this collection as it's one of my faves.

Posted by: [RexDrive](#) on November 08, 2007 08:08 PDT

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Well done article! I wasn't sure how you'd be able to review an entire box set worth of film, let alone that of someone like Kubrick. Makes me want to watch not only all the films, but the extras...all 50 bazillion hours of it.

Posted by: [RTJen](#) on November 08, 2007 00:25 PDT

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Same here on The Shining, I didn't know he directed it, very well done movie.

2001 put me to sleep the first time I watched it.

A Clockwork Orange and Full Metal Jacket, two excellent movies that are truely must see and must own.

Intresting sidenote on... [\[+\] Full Comment](#)

Posted by: [Solid_machine](#) on November 07, 2007 12:51 PDT

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