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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

■ Previous 123

A Clockwork Orange, on the other hand, inadvertently highlights the design of the overall set, which clearly and persistently emphasizes the films' reception and impact in the UK over the United States. One supposes it's particularly appropriate for this film, since Kubrick withdrew it from circulation after he received hate mail and death threats, but by and large a more global perspective (or, okay, indulging my most culturally imperialistic impulses, a stateside one) might have made this material slightly more relevant to regular viewers.



Additionally, and perhaps due in no small part to the age of many of the films, there seems to be contradictory reports about the inspirations or origins of various artistic ideas in the films, much less anecdotes: for example, a producer indicates that McDowell scratched his corneas when he freaked out in the straitjacket and bumped the devices that held his eyelids open, while McDowell himself simply said it happened during the

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Ratings for Warner Home Video Director's Series..



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normal process of filming. Few if any of these reports contradict one another so much that it becomes a real question of truth versus fiction, but the varying accounts do speak to the inherently flawed nature of recalling past events from different perspectives

The Shining explores a lot of the production and especially the steadicam process, which was more or less invented for the film, but what's most interesting is the featurettes' consistent discourse about the way in which Kubrick subverted the conventional language of horror cinema and created an even more palpably terrifying atmosphere by shooting with bright light and open spaces. Additionally, a conversation with composer Wendy Carlos sheds a lot of light on their longtime collaboration, and shows how the musician was herself an innovator when it came to finding unconventional ways to producing creepy or weird sounds that suited Kubrick's images.



Full Metal Jacket is only a single-disc set, but neither the presentation nor bonus materials suffer: the Beyond Good and Evil featurette more than sufficiently explores the making and impact of the film. Ditto the commentary, where D'Onofrio offers a real wealth of insights about his character development, his relationship with the other actors, his experiences on set, and his collaborations with Kubrick.

Finally, the Eyes Wide Shut set fails slightly to qualify the real themes and depth of the film, particularly since it seems to be so misunderstood, but it has probably the second best bonus materials of any of the individual films. The documentaries focus largely on the film being Kubrick's last, and on his roster of unfinished projects - all of which is as fascinating as it is insightful about the director's personality - while his DGA acceptance speech shows that the man was always willing to court controversy in the service of breaking new ground; in the speech, he uses the Icarus myth not to suggest his own greatness but to suggest the real moral of the story was "make better wings.



Curiously, the first disc of the SD set indicates that viewers can choose between the Rrated and unrated versions of Eyes Wide Shut, but thus far I have been completely

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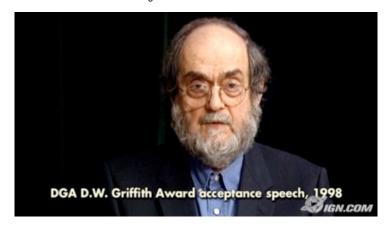
Good Luck Chuck (Chucked Up! Unrated Edition) DVD Review

unable to locate the rated version. That said, most fans will naturally want the unrated version since it is truest to Kubrick's vision of the film, and the changed footage is ultimately negligible except as a moment of underwhelming titillation. But overall, there is almost nothing left out of these extras that Kubrick fans will possibly miss.

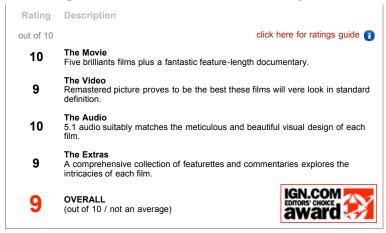
Score: 9 out of 10

#### The Bottom Line

Kubrick's legacy is finally and fully celebrated in this set - except for the unfortunate fact that several of his films were left out of the collection: wherefore art thou, *Lolita* and *Barry Lyndon*? (Rumor has it that the new *Lyndon* disc isn't even anamorphic, which fairly blows our minds.) Not to mention the fact that it appears that much of the interview footage came from several years ago, given the fact that the *Life in Pictures* documentary uses some of the same interview footage as the new featurettes and documentaries. But for those looking to purchase his most famous films, this set leaves them wanting for nothing; in other words, this is the set that fans have been long awaiting, and the one that will no doubt create a whole new generation of them.



IGN's Ratings for Warner Home Video Director's Series: Stanley Kubrick







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IGN chats with Kubrick's long-time friend and assistant.

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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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