

11/26/06 NTDN

DISK-MAS



DVDs that will please

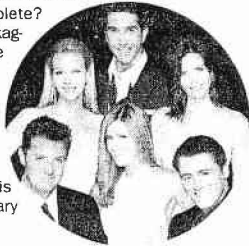
BY MICHAEL GILTZ

A lot of this season's DVD packages make great stocking stuffers — but you'll need really big stockings. Whether it's presenting an entire TV series ("Friends"), celebrating a movie franchise ("Superman"), digging into cartoon archives (th-th-that's Looney Tunes, folks) or hot new releases, there's something for everyone on your list.

THE WHOLE STORY

■ **"Friends": The Complete Series** (\$299.98; Warner Bros.) Could it BE any more complete?

A lavish repackaging of the entire 236-episode series on 40 disks with a new 60-page commemorative book. All that's missing is a complementary coffee from Central Perk.



■ **"Homicide: Life on the Street" Complete Series Megaset** (\$299.95; A&E) A no-nonsense, critically acclaimed police drama, "Homicide's" mind-set is captured perfectly in a filing cabinet-shaped box set that contains all seven seasons, along with three crossover "Law & Order" episodes and "Homicide: The Movie."

■ **"Six Feet Under": The Complete Series Gift Set** (\$279.98; HBO) Death becomes this HBO drama, with all five seasons entombed in a boxed set complete with gravestone and fake grass on top.

■ **"Alias": The Complete Collection** (\$199.99; Touchstone) Jennifer Garner's super-complex spy thriller will live forever, thanks to encasing the series in a Rambaldi artifact box.

SUPER, MAN

■ **Superman Ultimate Collector's Edition** (\$99.98; Warner Bros.) Even Lex Luthor would be impressed by the scope of this more-powerful-than-a-locomotive set. On 14 disks are all four Christopher Reeve outings, including a four disk-version of 1978's "Superman" loaded with extras, a new Richard Donner cut of 1981's "Superman II," plus the two-disk release of this past summer's "Superman Returns," and loads of new extras.

■ If that isn't enough red and blue, you can also spring for **"Adventures of Superman"** (\$39.98 each; Warner Bros.) which has all six seasons of the 1950's George Reeves TV classic in four boxed sets; **"Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman"** (\$59.98 each; Warner Bros.) just put out its fourth and final season; and for real completists, there's the Kirk Alyn **"Superman: The 1948 & 1950 Theatrical Serials"** (\$39.98; Warner Bros.).

■ **James Bond Ultimate Edition Vols. 1-4** (\$89.98 each; MGM) If there's a guy in your life who doesn't own a James Bond movie (or who's a new Bond man thanks to "Casino Royale"), these boxed sets, with five movies in each set, will shake and stir him.

FOR THE KIDS

■ **Walt Disney Treasures: "The Mickey Mouse Club Featuring the Hardy Boys"** (\$32.99) It's no mystery why 1950s kids loved teen sleuths Joe and Frank Hardy: The live-action serial about the famed teen detectives was top-notch television that kept young fans returning every afternoon breathless to find out what happened next. Two disks, with loving introductions from film historian Leonard Maltin.

■ **Looney Tunes Golden Collection Vol. 4** (\$64.98; Warner Bros.) Wacky, surreal, hilarious — these classic shorts still make most kiddie shows seem tame and lifeless by comparison. Four disks devoted to Bugs, Speedy Gonzales, cats and director Frank Tashlin.



SIZE MATTERS

■ **"King Kong" Deluxe Extended Limited Edition** (\$79.98; Universal) More Kong than you can shake a banana at, including a new Peter Jackson edit that's 13 minutes longer, plus 38 minutes of deleted scenes and even a Kong collectible showing him scaling the Empire State Building.

■ **"The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe" Gift Set** (\$79.99; Disney) A new extended version of the hit film, three DVDs of extras plus two lavish bookends in the shape of a wardrobe and a streetlight.

■ **Preston Sturges — The Filmmaker Collection** (\$59.98; Universal) Seven films by the great writer-director, including classics like "The Lady Eve" and "Hail the Conquering Hero."

■ **"Forbidden Planet" Ultimate Collector's Edition** (\$59.98; Warner Bros.) The enduring 1956 sci-fi tale starring Leslie Nielsen (before he got silly), complete with extras like two spinoff movies starring Robby the Robot, lobby cards, and even a Robby doll. But no copies of Shakespeare's "The Tempest," the reputed inspiration for "Planet."

QUICK HITS

■ **"Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest" Two-Disk Collector's Edition** (\$34.99; Disney) Learn everything there is to know about Johnny Depp's romp, from the special effects to how the movie's success made Disney reimagine the theme park ride.

■ **"The Devil Wears Prada"** (\$29.99; Fox) A delicious performance by Meryl Streep that lets even suffering assistants empathize with the Boss From Hell.

■ **"Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby"** (\$28.95; Sony) Will Ferrell's NASCAR racing comedy is so spot-on it makes even product placements seem funny.

ODDS AND ENDS

■ **"Saturday Night Live" — The Complete First Season** (\$69.98; Universal) Perfect for fans of classic rock 'n' roll or anyone who wants to finally settle the question of whether "SNL" used to be better. (Oh, it was.)



■ **Elvis — The Ed Sullivan Shows** (\$29.99; Image) All three hip-shaking "Ed Sullivan" shows where the King of Rock 'n' Roll brought a nation to its feet. Extras include home movies, footage of Elvis on movie sets and even one of the first glimpses of daughter Lisa Marie.

■ **"A Star Is Born"** (\$19.98; Warner Bros.) Barbra Streisand rises and Kris Kristofferson falls in the trashily fun 1976 remake of the classic Hollywood tale. Streisand even dishes the dirt in a commentary track. ♦

