

Arts



Paul Bettany (left) and Russell Crowe in "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World."

"MASTER AND COMMANDER: THE FAR SIDE OF THE WORLD"

Director **Peter Weir's** grand vision of Lucky Jack Aubrey (**Russell Crowe**) leading his men into battle during the Napoleonic Wars (\$39.98, Fox) deserves the broad canvas of a big screen. But the very attributes that kept it from becoming a blockbuster — subtle acting from Crowe and **Paul Bettany** (as his surgeon), a fine eye for detail and a resistance to pumped-up set pieces — make it ideal for home viewing. With loads extras — lengthy documentaries, deleted scenes and even a map — is it too much to hope huge DVD sales will let them make a sequel?

"THE OFFICE": COMPLETE SECOND SERIES

Painfully funny, this BBC series about the workers at a miserable little paper products company (\$24.98, BBC Video) became the first international comedy to win Golden Globes for Best Comedy and Best Actor (for co-creator and star **Ricky Gervais**). The second season ended with gut-wrenching emotion. Extras — including deleted scenes, bloopers and a video diary — ease the pain of knowing "The Office" is almost closed for good (only two new episodes are on tap).

"THE INGMAR BERGMAN COLLECTION" "FLOATING WEEDS"

Although the five **Ingmar Bergman** films in this collection — "Persona," "Hour of the Wolf," "Shame," "Passion of Anna" and "The Serpent's Egg" — are available individually, this boxed set (\$112.96, MGM) includes a sixth disc of extras, including a Swedish "conversation" with Bergman from 2002 and a 1970 English interview. Meanwhile, the 100th birthday celebration of the legendary Japanese director Yasujiro Ozu is marked by a lovely packaging of his 1934 silent film "A Story of Floating Weeds" along with his 1959 remake, "Floating Weeds" (\$39.95, Criterion). The latter features audio commentary by **Roger Ebert**.

"A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN"

Who says **Madonna** can't act? Whether it's her debut in "Desperately Seeking Susan," her wisecracking moll in "Dick Tracy," her Golden Globe-winning turn as Argentina's "Evita" or her hilarious work in 1992's "A League of Their Own" (\$24.96, Columbia TriStar), Madonna has delivered some sterling work. Loads of extras, like commentary from director **Penny Marshall**, a documentary and 15 deleted scenes.

Also out:

The Daryl Hannah revival gains speed with "Kill Bill: Vol. 2" in the theaters and the fine John Sayles drama "Casa De Los Babys" (\$29.98, MGM) on DVD; "Win a Date With Tad Hamilton!" (\$26.99, Universal) is fatally miscast — if a movie star is supposed to fall in love with an average girl, she shouldn't look like runway model Kate Bosworth; Christopher Walken's incendiary 1990 drama "King of New York" Special Edition (\$19.98, Artisan); Oliver North runs for the U.S. Senate in the observant 1996 documentary "A Perfect Candidate" (\$24.95, First Run); "Spinal Tap" heavy-metal inspiration Slade in their one and only rockumentary, 1974's "Slade in Flame" (\$19.98, Shout).

Out next week:

Tim Burton's fantasy drama "Big Fish," Hugh Grant as the Prime Minister in "Love Actually," and the Wolf Man Legacy Collection.