



Ludvine Sagnier stars  
in the provocative  
"Swimming Pool."

#### "SWIMMING POOL"

French director **Francois Ozon's** most recent film, the English-language "Swimming Pool" (\$26.98, Universal), was his biggest hit yet, following the amusingly theatrical Fassbinder play "Water Drops on Burning Rocks," penetrating drama "Under the Sand" and the frothy musical "8 Women." The plot of this beautifully photographed psychological mystery was atypically obvious — uptight English mystery writer (the marvelous **Charlotte Rampling**) is loosened up by a sexy, even coarse, young French woman (**Ludvine Sagnier**). Sagnier certainly did a marvelous job of lying by the pool in her bikini.

#### "UPTOWN SATURDAY NIGHT"

**Sidney Poitier's** screen persona is indelibly that of the righteous, almost saintly black man, and no one ever seems to remember that **Bill Cosby** once starred in a successful movie. But both of those images are laid to rest with their larky 1974 buddy comedy "Uptown Saturday Night," along with the two "sequels," "Let's Do It Again," from 1975, and "A Piece of the Action," from 1977 (\$19.97 each, Warner Bros.) Curiously, neither Poitier nor Cosby contributed to the documentaries or commentary tracks.

#### "GREEN ACRES": COMPLETE FIRST SEASON THE BEST OF "MR. ED"

"Mr. Ed" is rightly remembered as one of those rather dumb, high-concept sitcoms. But "Green Acres" (\$39.98 each, MGM) — while it certainly reveled in dumbness as well — was a rather sneakily self-aware, almost surreal show that made fun of TV conventions, broke down the fourth wall a la "Burns & Allen" and even made hay out of the show's opening credits. If **Paris Hilton** had studied **Eva Gabor**, she would have learned how to fit right in without giving up her sense of style (or humor).

#### "CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM": COMPLETE FIRST SEASON

**Larry David's** acquired taste of a sitcom, "Curb Your Enthusiasm" (\$39.98, HBO), has every awkward moment preserved from its debut season, including all 10 episodes and the HBO special that launched it. The most fun comes from celebs like **Ted Danson**, **Richard Lewis** and **Diane Keaton**, who gleefully tweak their public personas. "Lost in Space," on the other hand, has always had a wider and more mainstream audience in mind. You might have outgrown this space opera after the age of 5, but for a while the campy Dr. Smith, the robot and the Robinsons were good friends to anyone needing an elementary lesson in greed, danger and bravery (\$79.98, Fox).

**Also out:** "Madame Sata" (\$24.98, Wellspring) is an uneven drama but features an extraordinary performance by **Lazaro Ramos** as a vicious Rio street punk turned Queen of Carnival; the final showdown "**Freddy vs. Jason**" was a complete disappointment (\$29.95, New Line); **Joaquin Phoenix** is the sole worthy element in the military comedy "**Buffalo Soldiers**," set in the dying days of the Cold War (\$29.99, Miramax); **Neil Patrick Harris** voices **Peter Parker** in the niftily animated MTV show "**Spider-Man: The New Animated Series**" (\$29.95, Columbia TriStar); **Rowan Atkinson** continues his string of silly blockbusters with the Bond spoof "**Johnny English**" (\$26.98, Universal); and 1981's "**Annie Special Anniversary Edition**" (\$19.95, Columbia TriStar) may have been completely supplanted by **Rob Marshall's** winning 1999 TV movie version, but it's nice to have **Carol Burnett** and **Aileen Quinn's** performances preserved anyway.

**Out next week:** **Johnny Depp's** other loopy performance from 2003, in "Once Upon a Time in Mexico"; every cop's favorite sitcom, "**Barney Miller**"; and a terrific documentary about spelling bees called "**Spellbound**."