



DVD

DISC DETAILS

RELEASED: Out now
RRP: £15.99
DISCS: 1
ASPECT RATIO: 1.78:1
AUDIO: DD5.1
EXTRAS: Commentary by director, actors; 8 featurettes; Video diaries; Deleted scenes; Bloopers; Gallery; Music video; Subtitles
PICTURE: ★★★
AUDIO: ★★★★★

FILM DETAILS

DISTRIBUTOR: Paramount
CERT: 12
RUN TIME: 95 mins
YEAR: 2008
DIRECTOR: Gurinder Chadha
STARS: Georgia Groome, Eleanor Tomlinson, Aaron Johnson

OR GET IT ON...
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FILM ★★★ EXTRAS ★★★★★

ANGUS, THONGS AND PERFECT SNOGGING

A gentle, authentic take on teenage angst...

"Why don't you just enjoy being 14?"

Bob Nicolson (Alan Davies) asks daughter Georgia (Georgia Groome). As anyone who's ever been 14 knows, this is a stupid question, what with worrying about parents, exams and the opposite sex (and not in that order). Georgia is desperate to disentangle gorgeous new boy Robbie (Aaron Johnson) from arch-rival Wet Lindsay (Kimberley Nixon), and she's also worried about her parents' marriage. She's a teenage Bridget Jones, complete with an embarrassing big-knickers scene.

Based on Louise Rennison's books *Angus, Thongs And Full-Frontal Snogging* and *It's OK, I'm Wearing Really Big Knickers*, and directed by *Bend It Like Beckham's* Gurinder Chadha, *Angus...* is an extremely nice take on teen angst. Georgia and friends aren't members of the ASBO brigade. They're well-spoken, even when they're arguing, and there isn't a cigarette or cheap cider can in sight. Some of the teen slang jars a bit but Georgia's woes, such as feeling jealous when her best friend gets a boyfriend, are utterly authentic. Forget the glossy bitchiness of *Mean Girls* – this is kinder, more polite, more awkward and, as a result, more believable, although would any 14-year-old girl actually agree to be seen clubbing with her mum?



Swooning outtake #136, included on this disc.

It's also a fairly packed DVD, although some features are more worthwhile than others. Groome and the other members of Georgia's gang join Chadha for a commentary, which mostly consists of "We remember this! It was really cool/funny because..." which often aren't so cool or funny to people who weren't there. The 27-minute Making Of 'Double Cool With Knobs On' discusses, among other things, the problems of adapting diary-style novels. The other, briefer featurettes cover everything from the cat that played Angus, Georgia's pet,

to the movie's premiere, and other extras include a music video, deleted scenes and video diaries. There's nothing outstanding here, and the blooper reel is disappointing, but it's a very decent package for a thoroughly decent film. **Anne Wollenberg**

FINAL WORD

You don't need to be 14 to enjoy this teen film. It's funny, charming and watchable, with a decent disc to boot.



FILM ★★★★★ EXTRAS ★★
BLOOD AND OIL

DVD RELEASED: Out now **RRP:** £12.99 **DISCS:** 1
CERT: E **RUN TIME:** 53 mins **YEAR:** 2006
DIRECTOR: Jeremy Earp **STARS:** Michael T Klare, George W Bush, Ronald Reagan **EXTRAS:** Featurette; Trailers
PICTURE: ★★★ **AUDIO:** ★★

This brief, haunting documentary won't tell you anything you don't know if you've seen *Fahrenheit 911* but its more neutral agenda – adding a greener flavour to Michael Moore's vitriolic anti-Bush stance – gives it genuine credibility.

Blood And Oil is based on the research of US academic Michael Klare, a dry old bod who narrates the film and its only real extra, a 30-minute university lecture – so don't expect any fireworks. However, the worrying points he makes about (1) the West's reliability on imported oil for just about every one of our industries, (2) Saudi Arabia's iron-fisted control of much of that oil and (3) the outgoing US administration's policy of sucking up to the autocratic Saudis while criticising (and indeed, invading) other non-democratic regimes should be understood by everyone. **Joel McIver**



FILM ★★★★★ EXTRAS ★★★★★
THE SCORPION KING 2: RISE OF A WARRIOR

DVD RELEASED: Out now **RRP:** £12.99 **DISCS:** 1
CERT: 12 **RUN TIME:** 109 mins **YEAR:** 2008
DIRECTOR: Russell Mulcahy **STARS:** Randy Couture, Michael Copon, Karen Quarterman **EXTRAS:** Six featurettes; Deleted scenes; Gag reel; Subtitles
PICTURE: ★★★★★ **AUDIO:** ★★

It's hard to be too excited by a film that's a prequel to a prequel to a sequel, yet in this unabashedly corny fantasy romp Russell Mulcahy (he of *Highlander* fame) has managed to wrangle a small budget into something improbably amusing. The performances are wooden, the plot clumsily episodic and the special effects of hilariously variable quality, but it's still a lot more fun than the loud and soulless mess that was the third *Mummy* film (see page 67). The extras are surprisingly generous as well, offering lots of on-set footage and cheery contributions from the cast and crew.

With an exuberant mixture of Greek myth, biblical legend and endearingly wonky wire-fu it's surprisingly easy to be won over, provided you're in the market for a daft *Clash Of The Titans* knock-off. **Dan Whitehead**

NEXT STOP...



LORD OF THE FLIES (1963)
Like *Buddha...*, this classic tale of hell experienced at a child's level reminds us that we adults aren't as all-seeing as we think. The US Criterion edition is rammed with extras. **Film:** ★★★★★ **Extras:** ★★★★★



FILM ★★★★★ EXTRAS ★
BUDDHA COLLAPSED OUT OF SHAME

DVD RELEASED: Out now **RRP:** £19.99 **DISCS:** 1
CERT: PG **RUN TIME:** 77 mins **YEAR:** 2007
DIRECTOR: Hana Makhmalbaf **STARS:** Nikhbakht Noruz, Abbas Alijome, Abdolali Hosenali **EXTRAS:** Subtitles **PICTURE:** ★★★ **AUDIO:** ★★

The multiple award-winning *Buddha Collapsed Out Of Shame* drags the viewer back to childhood, where playground violence is terrifyingly real and adults are irrelevant. Iranian director Makhmalbaf sets his brutal drama in modern Afghanistan, bombed to rubble by us clever Westerners and suffering horrendous deprivations. A small girl, Baktay (Nikhbakht Noruz), wants to get an education in the school across the river in the desert village where she lives, but everything conspires against her: her absent parents, the religious hatred between gangs of local children, the fact that she's female and therefore regarded as inferior. If you've got kids, *Buddha...* will make you cry and even if you haven't, you still won't forget it in a hurry. No extras, which for a film of this emotional and political depth is ludicrous. **Joel McIver**