



DVD

DISC DETAILS
RELEASED: 26 June
RRP: £17.99
DISCS: 1
ASPECT RATIO: 2.35:1
AUDIO: DD5.1
EXTRAS: Deleted scenes; Bloopers; Music video; Subtitles
PICTURE: ★★★★★
AUDIO: ★★★★★

FILM DETAILS
DISTRIBUTOR: Walt Disney
CERT: PG
RUN TIME: 104 mins
YEAR: 2009
DIRECTOR: PJ Hogan
STARS: Isla Fisher, Hugh Dancy, Krysten Ritter

FILM ★★★ EXTRAS TBC
CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC

Buy another day...

Disney greenlit this adaptation of Sophie Kinsella's chick-lit series before the mortgage market crumbled and the credit crunch started crunching. To some, a film about the perils of overspending could seem crass or preachy. But if there's a timely financial message in *Confessions Of A Shopaholic*, it's wrapped in enough layers of froth and glamour to provide plenty of escapist enjoyment - as well as a reminder that there's more to life than buying shoes.

Alas, this is something Rebecca Bloomwood (Isla Fisher) takes a while to work out. Unable to walk past a window display without buying the priciest thing in it, she has a full-blown addiction to retail therapy and is miles into the red. She's also desperate to be a fashion journalist, but instead takes a job at a savings magazine, which is somewhat ironic given her colossal credit card debts.

Dashing editor Luke (Hugh Dancy) is unimpressed by Becky's inability to write without plagiarising from *Money For Dummies*, but enjoys her penchant for likening finance to fashion and gives her a column. It's a success, and suddenly



The Sarah Ferguson Story is basically just shopping.

she's the toast of the whole company. However, the debts are mounting up and debt collector Derek Smeath (Robert Stanton) is keen to meet her...

Cute, bouncy Fisher is the perfect choice to play Becky, a deluded fool if a likeable one. She does get her comeuppance, in an utterly hideous, cringe-inducing fashion, but even then the film doesn't hammer that underlying message (about shoes, and not buying them all) home too hard and is just as fluffy as it should be. (Extras

weren't available at press time, but should include deleted scenes, bloopers and a music video, while the Blu-ray promises six fashion-related featurettes.)

Confessions could make you want to go out and buy everything you see, but you're more likely to go and stick your credit card in a block of ice. **Anne Wollenberg**

FINAL WORD

Silly, but enjoyably so, although we'd have liked to see more extras.



FILM ★★★ EXTRAS ★★

JULIA

DVD RELEASED: Out now **RRP:** £15.99 **DISCS:** 1
CERT: 15 **RUN TIME:** 130 mins **YEAR:** 2008
DIRECTOR: Erick Zonca **STARS:** Tilda Swinton, Saul Rubinek, Kate Del Castillo **EXTRAS:** Interview; Deleted scenes; Trailer
PICTURE: ★★★★★ **AUDIO:** ★★★★★

According to star Tilda Swinton, this gritty story of a reckless alcoholic caught up in a cross-border kidnapping plot is "a zoological experiment in amoral compassion." She may indeed be right, but for those of us not on her planet it's safer to approach Erick Zonca's belated English-language follow-up to 1998's *Dream Life Of Angels* as an update of John Cassavetes' seminal *Gloria*.

As the jobless lush who agrees to help desperate Mexican Elena (Kate Del Castillo) steal back her son, all the while intending to ransom the kid herself, Swinton's Julia undoubtedly gives *Gloria*'s Gena Rowlands a run for her money. What should have been a taut thriller, however, becomes a sprawling mix of melodrama and character study that outstays its welcome by around 40 minutes. **Neil Smith**



EASY EXPERT

CUT AND RUN
A last-minute budget cut meant Erick Zonca's drama was made "on the run," reveals Swinton. "At one point we were going to call it *My Arse Is On Fire*," she jokes.



FILM ★★ EXTRAS ★★★

I KNOW HOW MANY RUNS YOU SCORED LAST SUMMER

DVD RELEASED: 29 June **RRP:** £12.99 **DISCS:** 1
CERT: 18 **RUN TIME:** 78 mins **YEAR:** 2008
DIRECTORS: Stacey Edmonds, Doug Turner **STARS:** Jai Koutrae, Stacey Edmonds, Az Jackson **EXTRAS:** Commentary; 7 featurettes; Music video; Subtitles
PICTURE: ★★ **AUDIO:** ★★

Here's an interesting pitch for fans of sport and horror: a cricket-themed slasher movie. Howzat? Crap, unfortunately. Proof that fun ideas don't always make fun movies, this low-budget Aussie slogger sounds like it'd be a blast but manages to be as boring as... well, cricket. Despite some inventive gore - sharpened stumps, razor gloves, etc - and a laughably gratuitous shower scene, the direction is inept and the acting as wooden as finest willow.

Cast and crew seem proud enough throughout the featurettes, which, along with a director's chat-track, grant the disc a short stay of execution. But if you were in any doubt as to the audience being catered for, that shower scene is available in full as an extra - strewth! **Ali Gray**



FILM ★★★ EXTRAS ★

ESCAPE FROM HUANG SHI

DVD RELEASED: Out now **RRP:** £15.99 **DISCS:** 1
CERT: 15 **RUN TIME:** 120 mins **YEAR:** 2008
DIRECTOR: Roger Spottiswoode **STARS:** Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Radha Mitchell, Chow Yun-fat **EXTRAS:** Subtitles
PICTURE: ★★★★★ **AUDIO:** ★★★★★

Director Roger Spottiswoode (*Tomorrow Never Dies*) had an extraordinary real-life story to mine for this war-torn tale of courage and love. Photographer George Hogg (Jonathan Rhys Meyers) witnesses the massacre of innocents in China's Nanking region as the Japanese army begins its invasion at the start of World War Two. Hiding out in an orphanage, he slowly begins to care for the children there and together they try to escape the murderous excesses of the war.

However, the film never delivers on its promise. A love story between Meyers and Radha Mitchell's nurse stumbles, while showy turns from Chow Yun-fat and Michelle Yeoh add to an overstuffed story. At least the inclusion of real-life survivors adds an emotional punch. **Matt Chapman**