



**DVD**

**DISC DETAILS**

**RELEASED:** Out now  
**RRP:** £19.99  
**DISCS:** 1  
**ASPECT RATIO:** 1.78:1  
**AUDIO:** DD5.1, 2.0  
**EXTRAS:** Commentary by screenwriter-director, actors and producers; 'Making Of' featurette; Deleted scenes; Trailer  
**PICTURE:** ★★★  
**AUDIO:** ★★★

**FILM DETAILS**

**DISTRIBUTOR:** Contender  
**CERT:** 15  
**RUN TIME:** 95 mins  
**YEAR:** 2007  
**DIRECTOR:** Alex Holdridge  
**STARS:** Scoot McNairy, Sara Simmonds, Brian McGuire

## FILM ★★★★★ EXTRAS ★★★★★ IN SEARCH OF A MIDNIGHT KISS

*This lo-fi indie rom-com is a real treasure...*

A former video store clerk (the job of choice for indie slackers), writer-director Alex Holdridge was used to seeing miserable people renting stacks of tapes during the festive period, so he wanted to make a film for that time. But don't worry - there's no glitz decorating this take on Tinseltown. Struggling screenwriter Wilson (Scoot McNairy) has moved from Texas to LA in the hope of making it big, but he's crashed his car, had his script stolen and been caught jerking off to Photoshopped pictures of his roommate Jacob's girlfriend. Determined to help Wilson hook up for New Year's Eve, Jacob (Brian McGuire) persuades him to put a personal ad on website Craigslist.

Enter Vivian (Sara Simmonds), a beautiful chain-smoking blonde with dreams of being an actress. "I'm meeting three other guys before I meet you. I mean, I'm not going to waste my New Year's Eve on some total fuck-up," she warns, this clearly being the way to anyone's heart. Not that volatile Vivian - who's just left her redneck boyfriend - really knows what it is she wants.

The premise of two people wandering around a city may sound like *Before Sunrise* all over again, but *Midnight Kiss* is something else - a beautiful, touching film full of



The makeout cops had finally caught up with them.

genuinely funny moments, and gorgeous shots of downtown LA. The low-budget touches and flickering picture just add to its charm. And just when you think its full hand has been revealed, along comes a genuinely unexpected revelation, resulting in an ending that's both saddening and surprising.

Given it was made for around \$25,000, you can forgive the fact that there aren't many extras. But all the key cast and crew have shown up to record the commentary, which is filled with tales of being thrown

out of hotel rooms and annoying Brian McGuire's neighbours while filming in his apartment. It's not the most packed disc, but some movies eat up several banks' worth of funds yet offer a lot less - and the film itself is superb.

**Anne Wollenberg**

### FINAL WORD

*This black-and-white indie romance is a real diamond in the rough, while an insightful commentary means the disc's half-decent too.*



**FILM ★★★ EXTRAS ★**

### DOG TAGS

**DVD RELEASED:** 27 October **RRP:** £14.99 **DISCS:** 1  
**CERT:** 15 **RUN TIME:** 90 mins **YEAR:** 2008  
**DIRECTOR:** Damion Dietz **STARS:** Amy Lindsay, Barry Ratcliffe, Bart Fletcher **EXTRAS:** None **PICTURE:** ★  
**AUDIO:** ★★★

*Fag Hag* and *Respect My Ass* are just two of the brilliantly titled previous efforts from underground indie filmmaker Damion Dietz. But the queer-cinema maverick has calmed down and grown up with *Dog Tags*, a vice-is-versa love-story between a mascara-ed free spirit (Bart Fletcher) and a sexy-but-straight soldier (Paul Preiss) who lives with his single mother and his fiancée.

Sliced and diced through some tricky flashback reveals, the narrative unfolds with a predictable trajectory as the young marine shrugs away the grip of his women to dip tentatively into same-sex love. But Dietz's sensitively written script is helped by vulnerable performances that hit the bullseye, blurring from platonic to physical with convincing intimacy. As for the bonus supplements, however, this disc rides bareback.

**Jonathan Crocker**



**FILM ★★ EXTRAS ★★★★★**

### SUPERHERO MOVIE

**DVD RELEASED:** Out now **RRP:** £17.99 **DISCS:** 1  
**CERT:** 15 **RUN TIME:** 75 mins **YEAR:** 2008  
**DIRECTOR:** Craig Mazin **STARS:** Drake Bell, Sara Paxton, Christopher McDonald **EXTRAS:** Alternate ending; 14 deleted scenes; 2 featurettes; Trailer; English subtitles  
**PICTURE:** ★★★ **AUDIO:** ★★★

We were always only a heartbeat away from this one: the full-blown superhero send-up. Aping almost page for page *Spider-Man*'s exact plot, director Mavin skewers the formula with anything he can think of as our hapless hero, Rick Riker, goes from super-geek to super-dick by way of a bite from a radioactive dragonfly.

Diced scenes pepper the disc, most of which don't stick with the exception of the tickly 'Shithead's Guide To Superhero Costumes'. Mavin and co chime in on mastering spoof flicks in 'The Art Of Spoofing' (just cast Leslie Nielsen) alongside an alternate, but still rubbish, ending. And all involved both in front of and behind the lens talk each other up to the hilt in 'Meet The Cast', a somewhat sickly 10-minute ego-massaging session. One for rental, if your cupboard is bare.

**Barry Keating**

### FILM FUSION



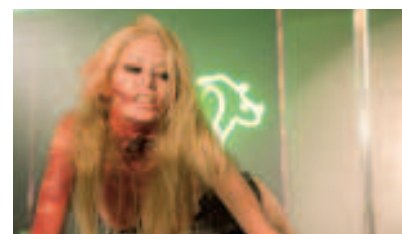
STRIPPERELLA



PLANET TERROR



ZOMBIE STRIPPERS



**FILM ★★ EXTRAS ★★★★★**

### ZOMBIE STRIPPERS

**Blu-ray RELEASED:** Out now **RRP:** £19.99 **DISCS:** 1  
**CERT:** 18 **RUN TIME:** 95 mins **YEAR:** 2008  
**DIRECTOR:** Jay Lee **STARS:** Robert Englund, Jenna Jameson, Roxy Saint **EXTRAS:** Commentary; Pop-up text commentary; 2 featurettes; Deleted scenes; BD Live online content **PICTURE:** ★★★ **AUDIO:** ★★★

Talk about biting satire... This B-movie effort from writer/director Jay Lee bolsters its lofty ambitions with some glib stabs at political and social targets. Based on the French existential play *Rhinoceros* by the Theatre of the Absurd's Eugene Ionesco, it turns the flesh-heavy trade of stripping on its head as the girls are the ones in need of some skin to satisfy their cravings. Not that there's anything high-brow about seeing Jenna Jameson's super stripper baring her rotting flesh... Robert Englund's insane set-chewing performance as the club manager, and Carmit Levité's *Allo Allo*-style comedy madame almost push this into the realms of being so-bad-it's-good. But it falls well short of that target because there's just not enough of the one thing you'd think would be guaranteed in a horror comedy about strippers: titillation.

**Matt Chapman**