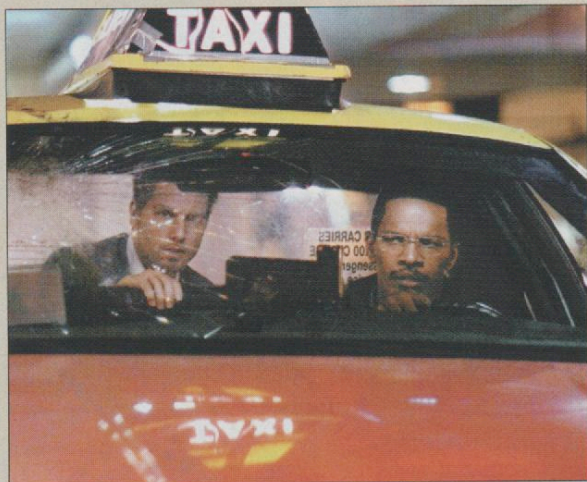


DVDs



SLY'S PICKS:

Collateral
(Dreamworks/2004)

Starring Tom Cruise and Jamie Foxx
Directed by Michael Mann

Collateral is a strongly crafted slice-of-life carved off the underbelly of society. Under Mann's masterful hand, Cruise and his innocent counterpart, Foxx, forge a cutting-edge relationship that will set the standard for crime-themed dramas for years to come. Like Anatole France's novel *Revolt of the Angels*, *Collateral* depicts the timeless tug-of-war battle between good and evil—especially within the characters themselves.

Stage Beauty
(Artisan/2004)

Starring Claire Danes and Billy Crudup
Directed by Richard Eyre

If you're a hardcore, blue-collar, "I'll take my steak raw" kinda guy, this period piece ain't for you. Gender identities are questioned and explored on- and backstage in this excellent journey back to the 17th century, when things—believe it or not—were more complicated between men and women even than they are now.

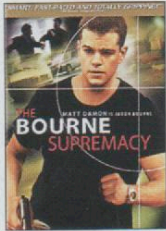


SACRAMONE'S PICKS:



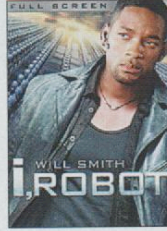
Hellboy
(Sony Pictures/2004)

Imagine a Nazi genetic experiment gone awry (Ron Perlman) adopted by a devout Catholic professor of the occult (John Hurt), working for a secret U.S. government agency combating an evil army helmed by Grigori Rasputin, faux-mystic consultant to the long-dead czars—and you've got *Hellboy*. Suspend your disbelief for this morally uplifting comic-book-turned-monster-movie on crack.



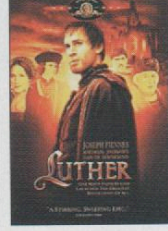
Bourne Supremacy
(Universal/2004)

Matt Damon is back as Jason Bourne, the world-weary spook who knows just enough of his past to want to put it behind him for good—until someone murders his lady love (Franka Potente) in an attempt to frame him for a CIA operation gone sour. This rare cinematic species—a first-rate sequel—boasts a car chase that rear-ends Steve McQueen to finish as the No. 1 road-rager of all time.



I, Robot
(Twentieth Century Fox/2004)

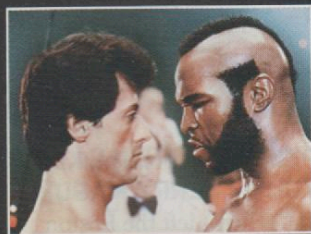
Based on Isaac Asimov's classic sci-fi novel that gave us the First Three Laws of Robotics, Will Smith is an all-too-human cop determined to prove the integrity of free will as the laws of physics battle the laws of man. An intelligent and fun detective story with just enough dystopian hipness to keep it from degenerating into simply another CGI-inflated action flick. Would make a nice twin-bill with 1997's *Gattaca*.



Luther
(MGM/2003)

The original Angry Young Monk, Martin Luther was a man so tormented with unrelenting guilt, he was willing to set a civilization on fire in order to find peace. Joseph Fiennes (*Shakespeare in Love*) plays the devout Augustinian monk who took on a church that cared more about money than souls and a state driven more by fear of Muslim invasion than justice for its people.

BEHIND THE LINE



Movie: Rocky III
(MGM, 1982)

The scene: Just after the referee's instructions before the rematch between Rocky Balboa (Sly) and Clubber Lang (Mr. T).

Dialogue: Lang grunts, "I'm gonna bust you up." Rocky growls back, "Go for it."

What Rocky was thinking: "It's the first time Rocky entered the ring with hatred in his heart," recalls Sly. "He wanted retribution and was going to give it everything he had to achieve it. The thought was, 'Someone is leaving here on a stretcher.'"

What Sly was thinking: "I was hoping not to get killed by Mr. T's left," says Sly. "He had tagged me four times when we were filming the fight scenes, knocking me down a couple of times. The first slow-motion knockdown scene in the movie was the real thing. I didn't know who or where I was and still don't."

CLASSIC OF THE MONTH

Touch of Evil
(Universal/1958)

What should have been little more than a B-picture potboiler became in the hands of director/screenwriter Orson Welles a masterpiece meditation on truth, justice and ways South of the American border. Charlton Heston plays a half-Mexican/half-Anglo cop who locks horns with a bigoted one-man judge and jury, the decadent and disheveled Capt. Hank Quinlan (Welles)—"a great detective but a lousy cop." Welles' deep-focus compositions and classic three-and-a-half-minute unbroken opening shot make this a twisted tale worthy of repeated viewings.

