



AV Newsletter

December/January

New DVDs

DECEMBER

Burn After Reading. R
 The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian. PG
 The Dark Knight. PG-13
 The Duchess. PG-13
 Eagle Eye. PG-13
 Hamlet 2. R
 The House Bunny. PG-13
 The Longshots. PG
 Lost: The Complete Fourth Season.
 Mamma Mia! PG-13
 The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor. PG-13
 Step Brothers. R
 Traitor. PG-13
 The Women. PG-13

JANUARY

Appaloosa. R
 Bangkok Dangerous. R
 Brick Lane. PG-13
 Brideshead Revisited. PG-13
 The Children of Huang Shi. R
 City of Ember. PG
 Disaster Movie. PG-13
 The Express. PG
 Fireproof. PG
 Igor. PG
 Lakeview Terrace. PG-13
 Mirrors. R.
 My Best Friend's Girl. R
 Pineapple Express. R
 Righteous Kill. R
 The Rocker. PG-13
 Rocknrolla. R
 Swing Vote. PG-13
 Tyler Perry's The Family That Preys. PG-13
 Vicky Cristina Barcelona. PG-13

New CDs

CLASSICAL

The Creation—Joseph Haydn; Sandrine Piau, Miah Persson, sopranos
 Chansons Grises—Janina Baechle, mezzo-soprano
 The Complete Piano Concertos—Ludwig Van Beethoven; Evgeny Kissin, piano
 Live in Vienna—André Rieu, violin
 Music for Two Pianos—Martha Argerich, piano

POPULAR

At 89—Pete Seeger
 And Winter Came—Enya
 Black Ice—AC/DC
 Christmas Song—Mannheim Steamroller
 Dark Horse—Nickelback
 Death Magnetic—Metallica
 Elephants...Teeth Sinking Into Heart—Rachael Yamagata
 Everything That Happens Will Happen Today—Brian Eno
 Evolver—John Legend
 Fearless—Taylor Swift
 Funhouse—Pink
 A Hundred Million Suns—Snow Patrol
 I Am...—Beyonce
 Intimacy—Bloc Party
 Jennifer Hudson—Jennifer Hudson
 Knowle West Boy—Tricky
 Live: Hope at the Hideout—Mavis Staples
 Live at Shea Stadium—The Clash
 Quinto Piso—Ricardo Arjona
 Safe Trip Home—Dido
 Startin' Fires—Blake Shelton
 Way To Normal—Ben Folds

DVD Spotlight: Overlooked DVDs of 2008

Despite the glut of best-of lists that crop up this time of year, there always are some fine films that don't quite make it on to critical and commercial radars. Here are our picks for recent DVDs that shouldn't be overlooked:

Days and Clouds. Not rated. (In Italian with English subtitles)
 Michele and Elsa have enjoyed a financially comfortable life. They helped their 20-year-old daughter establish a business and Elsa just finished her advanced degree in art history. Everything changes when Michele confesses that he has not worked in two months and they are almost out of money. In crisis, the couple works to save their now-fragile relationship.



The Grocer's Son. Not rated. (In French with English subtitles)
 When his father becomes ill, Antoine reluctantly leaves the city. He takes over a rural grocery route, driving to remote areas in an old-fashioned truck. At first Antoine has little patience for the quirky locals and causes more trouble than good. Then there is the strained relationship with his family. Things start to change when Claire, his secret crush from Paris, accompanies him on his rounds.

Dark City (director's cut). Not rated.
 This 1998 sci-fi film noir was just re-released on DVD, with lots of extras, including an expanded audio commentary. John Murdoch awakes in a hotel room with no memory and quickly finds himself in deep trouble. The police think he is a serial killer. Pale-faced men with psychokinetic powers are hunting him. And a beautiful woman claims to be his wife. John races against time to learn the truth.



World Film Fest

Twin Sisters (R, Netherlands)
 Monday, January 5 at 6:30pm in the Petty Auditorium
Days and Clouds (Not rated, Italy)
 Monday, February 2 at 6:30pm in the Petty Auditorium



CAN'T-MISS MUSIC BY TOBY GREENWALT

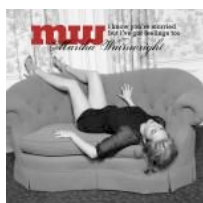
Can a song be melodically simple and sonically complex at the same time? Swedish indie-popster Lykke Li gives this theory a workout with her debut album *Youth Novels*. In most pop arrangements, vocals are the primary force. Li has taken a more difficult route, treating her breathy, floaty voice as just another instrument. The vocals intertwine with the crisp



instrumentation (which includes strings, woodwinds and a theremin in addition to the traditional guitar-drums-bass combo), and the melodies take odd turns without sacrificing catchiness. Imagine Feist fronting Peter Björn and John

(whose Björn Ytting produced the record), and you're on the right track.

The Wainwright family owns a distinct musical pedigree. Loudon Wainwright III has been a successful singer-songwriter for decades, and son Rufus has followed his muse through several albums and a live "cover" of Judy Garland's 1961 Carnegie Hall concert. Rufus' sister Martha is proof that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. With acerbic wit, she proves that the prettiest songs can still have an edge. The guitar-centric instrumentation hovers between mellow intimacy and ragged jangle, and her voice calls to mind a less feral Joanna Newsom. The result may be an acquired taste, but it will reward the dedicated listener. If an album title like *I Know You're Married, But I've Got Feelings Too* draws a laugh, then Martha's your girl.



Finally, we have *Dear Science*, the latest from Brooklyn's TV On the Radio. Simultaneously dark and funky, moody and driving, TVOTR has found the sweet spot between late-70s No Wave and early-80s

Prince. Sure, they found this happy medium nearly 30 years after the fact, but the album is well worth the wait. Don't miss what's likely to be near the top of many year-end best-of lists.

Looking for more music reviews? Check out The Studio, the Library's brand-new movies and music blog. Point your browser at blogs.skokielibrary.info/studio for the latest updates.

Dec08/Jan09

If you liked *Mamma Mia!*, you may also like ...

Based on the hit musical (which itself was based on the hit songs of Swedish pop sensation ABBA), *Mamma Mia!* is a joyful romp about a woman (Meryl Streep) who reconnects with three former flames (Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth and Stellan Skarsgard) amid her daughter's wedding celebration in Greece. Full of energy and infectious fun, the movie was one of the big crowd-pleasers of 2008. If you loved the movie or are waiting for the DVD, here are some other films you might enjoy:



ABBA, The Movie. Not rated. 1977

In this lighthearted look at the lives of pop stars, celebrated filmmaker Lasse Hallstrom captures ABBA on tour in their heyday.



Bride and Prejudice. PG-13. 2004

This delightful Bollywood-inspired musical romance re-imagines Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* in modern-day India.

Definitely, Maybe. PG-13. 2008

A soon-to-be-divorced father reminisces about his past romances in this thoughtful romantic comedy.



Enchanted. PG. 2007

Disney's hit musical comedy is about a fairy-tale princess (Amy Adams) who gets lost in modern-day New York City. The movie combines live action with some animation and three of its songs were nominated for an Academy Award.

My Big Fat Greek Wedding. PG. 2002

A quiet, devoted daughter in a big, crazy Greek-American family meets a man who inspires her to change her life and the way she sees the world.



That Old Feeling. PG-13. 1997

A happily divorced couple (Bette Midler, Dennis Farina) turn their hostility into romance when they reunite for their daughter's wedding.

 **Skokie Public Library**
5215 Oakton Street
Skokie, Illinois 60077
847.673.7774 / 847.673.7797 fax
www.skokielibrary.info

Skokie Public Library Trustees:
Diana Hunter, President/President Emerita; John J. Graham, Vice President; Dayle Zelenka, Secretary; Richard Basofin; Susan Greer; Zelda Rich; John M. Wozniak
Director: Carolyn A. Anthony