NOW AVAILABLE IN A BLU-RAY EDITION!

A MARTIN SCORSESE PICTURE

THE LAST TEMPTATION OF CHRIST

1988

THE CRITERION COLLECTION
The Last Temptation of Christ, by MARTIN SCORSESE (Raging Bull), is a towering achievement. Though it initially engendered enormous controversy, the film can now be viewed as the remarkable, profoundly personal work of faith that it is. This fifteen-year labor of love, an adaptation of Nikos Kazantzakis’s landmark novel that imagines an alternate fate for Jesus Christ, features outstanding performances by WILLEM DAFOE (Antichrist), BARBARA HERSHEY (Hannah and Her Sisters), HARVEY KEITEL (Mean Streets), HARRY DEAN STANTON (Paris, Texas), and DAVID BOWIE (The Man Who Fell to Earth); bold cinematography by the great MICHAEL BALLHAUß (Broadcast News); and a transcendent score by PETER GABRIEL.

"A sincere, typically ambitious, and imaginative work from America’s most provocatively intelligent filmmaker.”
—Geoff Andrew, Time Out

“Likely to inspire more serious thought on the nature of Jesus than any other film ever made.”
—Roger Ebert

1988 • 163 MINUTES • COLOR • 5.1 SURROUND • 1.85:1 ASPECT RATIO

DIRECTOR-APPROVED BLU-RAY SPECIAL EDITION FEATURES

• Restored high-definition digital transfer, supervised and approved by cinematographer Michael Ballhaus and editor Thelma Schoonmaker, with a 5.1 DTS-HD Master Audio soundtrack by supervising sound editor Skip Lievsay
• Audio commentary featuring director Martin Scorsese, actor Willem Dafoe, and writers Paul Schrader and Jay Cocks
• Galleries of production stills, research materials, and costume designs
• Location production footage shot by Scorsese
• Interview with composer Peter Gabriel, with a stills gallery of traditional instruments used in the score
• PLUS: An essay by film critic David Ehrenstein
In the 1940s, the wit of playwright NOËL COWARD (Design for Living) and the craft of filmmaker DAVID LEAN (Lawrence of Arabia) melded harmoniously in one of cinema’s greatest writer-director collaborations. With the wartime military drama sensation In Which We Serve, Coward and Lean (along with producing partners RONALD NEAME and ANTHONY HAVELOCK-ALLAN) embarked on a series of literate, socially engaged, and enormously entertaining pictures that ranged from domestic epic (This Happy Breed) to whimsical comedy (Blithe Spirit) to poignant romance (Brief Encounter). These films created a lasting testament to Coward’s artistic legacy and introduced Lean’s visionary talents to the world.
In the midst of World War II, the renowned playwright Noël Coward engaged a young film editor named David Lean to help him realize his vision for an action drama about a group of Royal Navy sailors (roles that would be filled by Coward himself, Great Expectations’ Bernard Miles, and Ryan’s Daughter’s John Mills, among others) fighting the Germans in the Mediterranean. Coward and Lean ended up codirecting the large-scale project—an impressive undertaking, especially considering that neither of them had directed for the big screen before (this would be Coward’s only such credit). Cutting between a major naval battle and flashbacks to the men’s lives before they left home, In Which We Serve (an Oscar nominee for best picture) was a major breakthrough for both filmmakers and a sensitive and stirring piece of propaganda.

1942 · 114 MINUTES · BLACK & WHITE · MONAURAL · 1.37:1 ASPECT RATIO

David Lean brings to vivid emotional life Noël Coward’s epic chronicle of a working-class family in the London suburbs over the course of two decades. Robert Newton (Oliver Twist) and Celia Johnson (Brief Encounter) are surpassingly affecting as Frank and Ethel Gibbons, a couple with three children whose modest household is touched by joy and tragedy from the tail end of the First World War to the beginning of the Second. With its mix of politics and melodrama, This Happy Breed is a quintessential British domestic drama, featuring subtly expressive Technicolor cinematography by Ronald Neame and a remarkable supporting cast including John Mills, Stanley Holloway (My Fair Lady), and Kay Walsh (The Horse’s Mouth).

1944 · 111 MINUTES · COLOR · MONAURAL · 1.37:1 ASPECT RATIO
BLITHE SPIRIT

“[A] hilarious Noël Coward romp, delivered seamlessly by David Lean.”

—TV Guide

Blithe Spirit, David Lean’s delightful film version of Noël Coward’s theater sensation (onstage, it broke London box-office records before hitting Broadway), stars REX HARRISON (Unfaithfully Yours) as a novelist who cheekily invites a medium (The Importance of Being Earnest’s MARGARET RUTHERFORD) to his house to conduct a séance, hoping the experience will inspire a book he’s working on. Things go decidedly not as planned when she summons the spirit of his dead first wife (KAY HAMMOND), a severe inconvenience for his current one (CONSTANCE CUMMINGS). Employing Oscar-winning special effects to spruce up Coward’s theatrical farce, Blithe Spirit is a sprightly supernatural comedy with winning performances.

1945 · 96 MINUTES · COLOR · MONAURAL · 1.37:1 ASPECT RATIO

BRIEF ENCOUNTER

“One of the greatest screen romances ever made.”

—Time Out New York

After a chance meeting on a train platform, a married doctor (The Third Man’s TREVOR HOWARD) and a suburban housewife (This Happy Breed’s Celia Johnson) enter into a muted but passionate, ultimately doomed, love affair. With its evocatively fog-enshrouded setting, swooning Rachmaninoff score, and pair of remarkable performances (Johnson was nominated for an Oscar for her role), David Lean’s film of Noël Coward’s play Still Life deftly explores the thrill, pain, and tenderness of an illicit romance, and has influenced many a cinematic brief encounter since its release.

1945 · 86 MINUTES · BLACK & WHITE · MONAURAL · 1.37:1 ASPECT RATIO
SPECIAL EDITION FEATURES

• New high-definition digital transfers of the BFI National Archive's 2008 restorations, with uncompressed monaural soundtracks on the Blu-ray editions
• Audio commentary on Brief Encounter by film historian Bruce Eder
• New interviews with Noël Coward scholar Barry Day on all of the films
• Interview with cinematographer-screenwriter-producer Ronald Neame from 2010
• Short documentaries from 2000 on the making of In Which We Serve and Brief Encounter

• David Lean: A Self Portrait, a 1971 television documentary on Lean’s career
• Episode of the British television series The Southbank Show from 1992 on the life and career of Coward
• Audio recording of a 1969 conversation between Richard Attenborough and Coward at London’s National Film Theatre
• Trailers
• PLUS: A booklet featuring essays by Ian Christie, Terrence Rafferty, Farran Nehne, Geoffrey O’Brien, and Kevin Brownlow

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UPC 7-15515-09331-6
LETTER NEVER SENT

A FILM BY MIKHAIL KALATOZOV

AVAILABLE ON BLU-RAY AND DVD!
The great Soviet director MIKHAIL KALATOZOV (The Cranes Are Flying), known for his virtuosic, emotionally gripping films, perhaps never directed one more visually astonishing than Letter Never Sent. This absorbing tale of exploration and survival concerns four members of a geological expedition who are stranded in the bleak and unforgiving Siberian wilderness while on a mission to find diamonds. Luxurianting in wide-angle beauty and featuring one daring shot after another (the brilliant cinematography is by Kalatozov’s frequent collaborator SERGEI URUSEVSKY), Letter Never Sent is a fascinating piece of cinematic history and a universal adventure of the highest order.

“Probably no other filmmaking team inspires more cries of ‘How’d they do that?’”
—Film Society of Lincoln Center

“Mind-blowing camera work.”
—S. T. Van Airsdale

SPECIAL EDITION FEATURES
• New high-definition digital restoration, with uncompressed monaural soundtrack on the Blu-ray edition
• New English subtitle translation
• PLUS: A booklet featuring an essay by film scholar Dina Iordanova

1959 • 96 MINUTES • BLACK & WHITE • MONOAURAL • IN RUSSIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES • 1.33:1 ASPECT RATIO
A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

AVAILABLE ON BLU-RAY AND DVD!

DIRECTED BY ROY WARD BAKER

THE CRITERION COLLECTION

1958
On April 14, 1912, just before midnight, the unsinkable Titanic struck an iceberg. In less than three hours, it had plunged to the bottom of the sea, taking with it more than 1,500 of its 2,200 passengers. In his unforgettable rendering of Walter Lord’s book of the same name, A Night to Remember, the acclaimed British director ROY WARD BAKER (Don’t Bother to Knock) depicts with sensitivity, awe, and a fine sense of tragedy the ship’s final hours. Featuring remarkably restrained performances, A Night to Remember is cinema’s subtlest, finest dramatization of this monumental twentieth-century catastrophe.

SPECIAL EDITION FEATURES

- New high-definition digital restoration, with uncompressed monaural soundtrack on the Blu-ray edition
- Audio commentary by Don Lynch and Ken Marschall, author and illustrator of “Titanic:” An Illustrated History
- The Making of “A Night to Remember” (1993), a sixty-minute documentary featuring William MacQuitty’s rare behind-the-scenes footage
- Archival interview with Titanic survivor Eva Hart
- En natt att minas, a forty-five-minute Swedish documentary from 1962 featuring interviews with Titanic survivors
- Trailer
- PLUS: A booklet featuring an essay by film critic Michael Sragow

1958 • 123 MINUTES • BLACK & WHITE • MONaurAL • 1.66:1 ASPECT RATIO
THE WAR ROOM

A FILM BY D. A. PENNEBAKER AND CHRIS HEGEDUS

AVAILABLE ON BLU-RAY AND DVD!
AN ABSORBING INSIDE LOOK 
AT THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN 
THAT CHANGED POLITICS FOREVER!

The 1992 presidential election was a triumph not only for BILL CLINTON but also for the new breed of strategists who guided him to the White House and changed the face of politics in the process. For this thrilling, behind-closed-doors account of that campaign, renowned cinema verité filmmakers D. A. PENNEBAKER (Monterey Pop) and CHRIS HEGEDUS (Startup.com) closely followed the brainstorming and bull sessions of Clinton’s crack team of consultants—especially the folksy JAMES CARVILLE and the preppy GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS, who became media stars in their own right as they injected a youthful spirit and spontaneity into the process of campaigning. Fleet-footed and entertaining, The War Room is a vivid document of a political moment whose truths (“It’s the economy, stupid!”) still ring in our ears.

“Giddy . . . [A] live-wire backstage view.”
—Owen Gleiberman, Entertainment Weekly

“Bristles with the frenetic energy, flat-out fun, and southern-fried cunning that won the White House.”
—Rita Kempley, The Washington Post

DIRECTOR-APPROVED SPECIAL EDITION FEATURES

• New, restored high-definition digital transfer, approved by directors D. A. Pennebaker and Chris Hegedus, with 2.0 surround DTS-HD Master Audio soundtrack on the Blu-ray edition

• Return of the War Room, a 2008 documentary in which advisers James Carville, George Stephanopoulos, and Paul Begala and others reflect on the effect the Clinton war room had on the way campaigns are run

• Making “The War Room,” a conversation between the filmmakers about the difficulties of shooting in the campaign’s fast-paced environment

• Panel discussion hosted by the William J. Clinton Foundation and featuring Carville, Clinton adviser Vernon Jordan, journalist Ron Brownstein, and surprise guest Bill Clinton

• Interview with strategist Stanley Greenberg on the increasing importance of polling

• PLUS: A booklet featuring an essay by writer Louis Menand