

# DVDDeNZ

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November 2004 Newsletter

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Winners, News, Foreign Films, Reviews & a new Competition

Did anyone notice? **We've gone dot com**

- o [SALE 25% off](#)
- o [Walls of News](#)
- o [Buying Offshore](#), Worth the hassle?
- o [Fantastic local films!](#)
- o [Live Aid](#)
- o [And the BEST is....](#)
- o [WINNERS and Near Winners](#)

**25% OFF, SELECTED DVD's...**

at DVDvideoplanet

+ 15% off coming soon titles in the DVDvideoplanet newsletter



[Walls of News](#) (updated 10th November)

Check the [Wall out at DVDDeNZ](#) amongst the recent tidbits you will find.....

Pick of the upcoming releases, sales, best lines of the week, Hollywood vs the Pirates, Dual disk formats, **Seven Brides for Seven Brothers**, Tarantino.... what are you waiting for? [Click here.](#)

## **Buying offshore** **Is it worth the hassle?**

As with most question of this type the answer is a very definite..... *MAYBE.*

With everyday releases you are usually better off buying locally. True, you might have to wait a while (mostly due to the ridiculous notion of rental windows. I doubt very much that those who intend to buy a DVD rent it first or that those who normally rent would run out and buy it instead if it was available) but unless you really need to see the film immediately a little patience is a small price to pay.

So, when is it worth browsing the web for international DVD purchases? I suggest there are three occasions:

1. SALES. The larger the company the bigger the sale! - Well that's not always true but if you check the major DVD sites you will come across some pretty phenomenal sales (especially on box sets).
2. AVAILABILITY. Some titles simply are not available in Region 4. If you are after some rare Stephen Chiau release or some little known independent film then you are probably going to have to browse offshore.
3. FEATURES. This one is less common, but sometimes the features of a non-region 4 releases are such that it makes it worth importing the film even at a higher cost.

Examples? Well take a look at the [EZYDVD](#) sale on **Star Trek** box sets (as recently mentioned on [The Wall](#)).

AUSTRALIA: [EZYDVD : Star Trek: The Next Generation \(Season 2\)](#) \$AUS 109.83

Working out the real price.

Deduct the GST and this brings the price down to \$AUS 99.85

Add freight and in this case insurance. EZYDVD charges insurance on box sets, and when you purchase 3 or more DVDs. This brings the price to \$AU 124.85

Convert to New Zealand Dollars. Today's exchange rate ([XE.com](#)) is 1.095 so that brings the price to \$NZ136.70

So that's what it will cost? Well, no. Credit cards tend to have slightly unfavorable exchange rates so you can expect the bill to be a little higher. I usually allow for a variance of 3% so would expect the final price to be about \$NZ 140.00

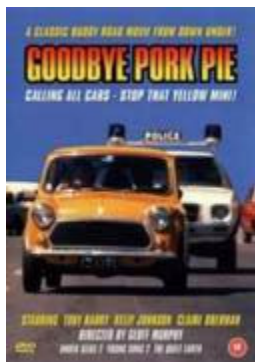
So is it worth buying? Well the NZ RRP is \$249.95 so (assuming you are a Trek fan) YES!

**a saving of 44%**

AUSTRALIA: [EZYDVD : The Simpsons \(Season 4\)](#)

The final \$NZ price for this set calculates at about \$58.00 compared with the current NZ RRP of \$99.95

**a saving of 42%**



UNITED KINGDOM: [Sendit.Com](#) : [Goodbye Pork Pie](#)

The New Zealand classic that is NOT available in region 4! (Although it is supposed to be available before Christmas).

However, if you want it now and at a good price, check out [Sendit.com](#). 4.99 pounds plus 1.60 postage and an exchange rate of 2.7 means this title will cost **UNDER \$20.00**

CANADA : [DVDsoon](#) : [Repo Man](#)

It is invariably worth checking [MichaelDVD](#) to compare the different region versions. In the case of the region 4 version of the cult classic [Repo Man](#) we miss out on "A 5.1 Dolby Digital soundtrack, a commentary from the cast and crew, and if you get the Limited Edition tin version, this also has the movie's soundtrack on CD and a 24 page booklet."

You can import this title for about **\$NZ 32.00**. Slightly dearer than the NZ RRP of \$29.95 but this title REALLY needs to be heard in 5.1! and for just \$2.00 more. I went shopping offshore for this one (and was lucky enough to pick up the limited edition).

NEW ZEALAND : [DVDvideoplanet](#) : [Shrek 2](#)

Don't get the idea I'm suggesting it's always worth buying offshore. It isn't. More and more often DVDs are being released quickly into region 4, with the same features and at competitive prices.

Shrek 2 is a prime example.

Released in New Zealand on November 3rd and available from [DVDvideoplanet](#) for the preorder price of \$29.95. VERY competitive when you consider it would cost about \$35 to import from AUS and about \$30 to import from Canada.

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Why aren't these locals rated #1?

Everyone seems to be making a fuss over Shaun of the Dead, which isn't a bad little film, but it pales to insignificance next to this little sleeper! If

you are not laughing within the first 10 minutes then I'm afraid someone has deleted your sense of the absurd!

It's an extremely budget production but it more than makes up for it with style. The critics (much like the audience according to the IMDB rating) are split. Bill Chambers (FILM FREAK CENTRAL gave it a real thumbs down "Unendurably boring in its superfluosness, its ersatz feel accentuated by a plethora of digital effects, Undead is simply a stiff" but don't let the so-so IMDB score or negative critics put you off; others have been quick to praise UNDEAD

"The most inventive zombie movie since Peter Jackson's Braindead" - Fangoria

"Dementedly funny, an audacious debut for the Spierig Brothers" - Empire

UNDEAD deserves cult status - The Movie Show

Everything about this film is exceptional - Ain't it cool news

OK, it's not really local being Aussie and all that - but this film will very quickly become part of my essential collection. Watch it now!

NZ RRP \$39.95

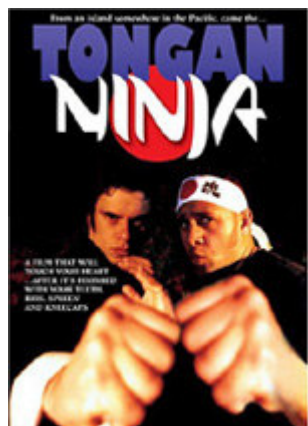
*Tongan Ninja – the film you didn't know you wanted, until you wanted it.*

A film that could have only been made in Wellington. The best movie to come out of New Zealand since Goodbye Pork Pie. This movie is simply staggering. Think of it as a Tongan martial arts parody of Way of the Dragon with musical numbers. Filmed in English and then, er, dubbed into English.

The lead villain (Marvin) really sets the tone when he declares [of the name Marvin] "*That name no longer holds any meaning for me. I am Action Fighter*" and he's not the only henchguy. Along for the ride are Knife Man (who is good with knives) and Gunman who (surprise) is good with guns.

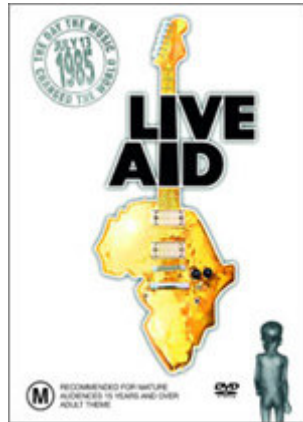
Anyway, as the trailer so rightly declares, *if you see one ninja movie with a Tongan in it this year then this should be it!*

**IMDb** Check out the rating for this film. The adverage (6.0) presents a misleading picture. Check the stats and you will find that 33% of the 73 voters rated it a 10. Personally I'd say this one goes all the way up to 11.



## LIVE AID

Everyone over the age of 35 will remember July 13th 1985. The day Bob Geldof did what everyone (at the time) claimed was impossible. Well, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of that impossible feat we have a 4 dvd set release of Live Aid. Over 10 hours of music, and some great music at that, plus buying the DVD will benefit the Live Aid Trust (Support Live Aid, feed the DVD habit, and gain a golden glow). At under \$75 a MUST HAVE!



## Lists!

### Luv'em or hate 'em

Everybody has a list! Favorite this, ten best that, 5 worst of the other.... and, everybody else tends to disagree with the list for one reason or another.

However, others' lists can be useful. My approach to them is as follows:

Have a look at the list, does it contain a number of films you rate highly?

If it does, does it contain other titles you haven't heard of?

YES!, well add them to the top of your MUST HAVE list :)

A simple procedure but you'll be surprised how many little wonders you can turn up.

I powered up GOOGLE and went hunting for lists. The results might be of interest.

GOOGLE SEARCH : top 100 films "Dead Man" "Ghost Dog"

I'm a Jarmusch fan and list makers seem to have a fascination for the top '100' so the search seemed like a good idea; the result:

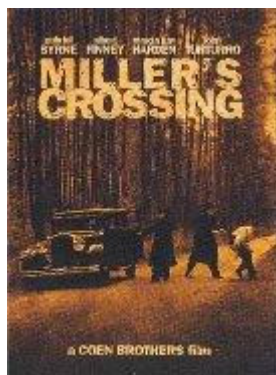
## [The Online Film Critics Society's "Top 100 Overlooked Films of the 1990s"](#)

"It was the decade of Tarantino and Titanic. From Schindler's List to The Blair Witch Project, movies and the hype that went with them seemed bigger than ever.

However, too many great films somehow got lost in the shuffle. While some were recalled by Oscar voters and many managed to squeak out a modest box office return, these films nonetheless failed to click in the memory banks of both the critics and with audiences.

The writers of the Online Film Critics Society recalls the half- and completely-forgotten treasures of the past decade cinematic canon with its list of the Top 100 Overlooked Films of the 1990s. Join us for a trip back into the not-so-distant past and see if you recall the titles celebrated here by the OFCS writers." (From Best of Lists)

...And the first 15 from the list:



- 1 MILLER'S CROSSING (1990) - Coen Brothers
- 2 Safe - Todd Haynes
- 3 The Sweet Hereafter - Atom Egoyan
- 4 Lone Star - John Sayles
- 5 Heavenly Creatures - Peter Jackson
- 6 Waiting for Guffman - Christopher Guest
- 7 The Hudsucker Proxy - Ethan Coen & Joel Coen
- 8 Babe: Pig in the City - Chris Noonan
- 9 Dead Man - Jim Jarmusch
- 10 Fearless - Peter Weir
- 11 Bound - Larry Wachowski & Andy Wachowski
- 12 Chungking Express - Kar Wai Wong
- 13 The Straight Story - David Lynch
- 14 Searching for Bobby Fischer - Steven Zaillian
- 15 Ghost Dog: Way of the Samurai - Jim Jarmusch

I had no idea how BABE made it into the list but it otherwise contained several of my favorites and resulted in me adding SAFE to my must see list.

Examining the URL revealed the master site [List of Bests](#) to contain, as you might guess a vast number of lists. Amongst them [23 movie lists!](#) An absolute orgy of top this that and the others!

Here's the list of links along with notes on a few of the links I couldn't resist!

[AFI's 100 Funniest American Movies Of All Time](#)

[AFI's 100 Greatest American Movies of All Time](#)

[AFI'S 100 Greatest Love Stories of All Time](#)

## [AFI'S 100 Most Thrilling American Films](#)

Call me biased but I wasn't even tempted to look at any of the lists from the American Film Institute (they are not even very good at sticking to their own rules when compiling lists: Lawrence of Arabia?)

## [British Film Institute's Top 100 British Films of the 20th Century](#)

## [Entertainment Weekly's "The Top 50 Cult Movies"](#)

Now here was a list that very quickly got my attention!

(From Best of Lists) "Most died at the box office, some of them horribly. Mangled and despised, they were re-animated on video. And now they compose our cultural Esperanto, a subliminal vocabulary of subversive images, ideas, and phrases ... They are Cult Movies.

Note: A week or two after EW's list came out, they also released 11 reader-chosen cult movies. These are listed as numbers 51 through 61"



- 1 THIS IS SPINAL TAP - Rob Reiner
- 2 The Rocky Horror Picture Show - Jim Sharman
- 3 Freaks - Tod Browning
- 4 Harold And Maude - Hal Ashby
- 5 Pink Flamingos - John Waters
- 6 The Texas Chainsaw Massacre - Tobe Hooper
- 7 Repo Man -Alex Cox
- 8 Scarface - Brian De Palma
- 9 Blade Runner - Ridley Scott
- 10 The Shawshank Redemption - Frank Darabont
- 11 Five Deadly Venoms -Cheh Chang
- 12 Plan 9 From Outer Space - Ed Wood
- 13 Brazil - Terry Gilliam
- 14 Eraserhead -David Lynch
- 15 Faster, Pussycat! Kill! Kill! - Russ Meyer

Nothing in the top 15 I wasn't already aware of, but the list made amusing reading. (And it contains a few surprises in later numbers.)

## [Entertainment Weekly's 100 Greatest Movies of All Time](#)

They picked the Godfather as #1, surprise surprise

## [Men's Journal's "The 50 Best Guy Movies Of All Time"](#)

Don Siegel, Clint Eastwood and Dirty Harry take (or make) the day.

### [O, The Oprah Magazine's "50 Greatest Chick Flicks of All Time"](#)

I'm scared.... (Sorry girls) I was almost too scared to look. However, I finally managed to locate my feminine side and click the link. Seems I managed to miss most of these titles.



- 1 Morocco - Josef von Sternberg
- 2 Camille - George Cukor
- 3 Notorious - Alfred Hitchcock
- 4 The French Lieutenant's Woman - Karel Reisz
- 5 The English Patient - Anthony Minghella
- 6 The Women - George Cukor
- 7 Julia - Fred Zinnemann
- 8 Desperately Seeking Susan - Susan Seidelman
- 9 The Truth About Cats & Dogs - Michael Lehmann
- 10 Romy and Michele's High School Reunion - David Mirkin
- 11 The Hours - Stephen Daldry
- 12 All About Eve - Joseph L. Mankiewicz
- 13 Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore - Martin Scorsese
- 14 Aliens - James Cameron
- 15 Thelma & Louise - Ridley Scott

### [Online Film Critics Society's Top 100 Animated Features of all Time](#)

Looked interesting. however, I had trouble working out how anyone could drop SPIRITED AWAY down to 15th place behind both Beauty and the Beast, and Southpark: Bigger, Longer and Uncut. Shudder.

### [Phobos Entertainment's "50 Science Fiction Films You Just Have to See"](#)

Fairly predictable list.

### [The Luddite Reader's "Top 12 Most Luddite Films of All Time"](#)

A luddite, in case you don't know, is any opponent of technological progress.

(From Lists of Bests) What is the most luddite film of all time? The top 12? Maybe these questions have never come up, but here are the answers anyway. The most luddite film of all time is Godard's Alphaville (1965), the only film in which the central character actually says, "Technology, hah! Keep it!" Alphaville also features the most luddite character name of all time: Lemmy Caution, a comic-bookish detective played by the durable, somewhat eroded Eddie Constantine.

- 1 Alphaville - Jean-Luc Godard
- 2 Metropolis - Fritz Lang



- 3 A Nous La Liberte - Rene Clair
- 3 Modern Times - Charles Chaplin
- 4 Frankenstein - James Whale
- 4 Young Frankenstein - Mel Brooks
- 5 Fahrenheit 451 - Francois Truffaut
- 6 Blade Runner - Ridley Scott
- 7 The Terminator - James Cameron
- 8 The Gods Must Be Crazy - Jamie Uys
- 9 Brazil -Terry Gilliam
- 10 Robocop - Paul Verhoeven
- 11 They Live - John Carpenter
- 12 Gattaca - Andrew M. Niccol

[The Sight and Sound Top Ten Poll \(2002\)](#)

A highly respected poll completed once every 10 years. Tends to favor older classics.

[The Village Voice 100 Best Films of the 20th Century](#)

[Lists of Bests](#) and that's not all. Links to Ebert's Favorites, Maltin's Favorites, best picture and film festival lists. Well worth a visit.

For a more traditional 'box office' list visit [Box Office Mojo](#) where you find every possible variation of box office results you could ever wish for.....and, in case you were wondering, the highest grossing movie that never reached #1 at the box office is 'My Big Fat Greek Wedding'. The highest grossing R-rated movie is 'The Passion of Christ', and my favorite box office list the [Adjusted for inflation](#) gives the top five as:

1	Gone With the Wind	MGM	\$1,240,554,000	1939
2	Star Wars	Fox	\$1,093,654,300	1977
3	The Sound of Music	Fox	\$874,430,400	1965
4	E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial	Uni.	\$870,985,600	1982
5	The Ten Commandments	Par.	\$804,340,000	1956

If you are not sick of the sight of lists by now you might want to look at things from the other end and check out [The STINKERS!](#)

...And the worst movie of all time (by popular de-vote) is:

**BattleField Earth**

Although it could only manage the [31st worst film of all time in the IMDB list](#) where the honours

went to:

### Daniel - Der Zauberer

I can't imagine it was due to the success of the movie, but rumor has it a Battlefield Earth mini series is set to punish TV addicts in the very near future.

## !!! WINNERS !!!

Congratulations to Karen Bowerbank winner of Long Time Dead and Alan Greig winner of The Ring. I will be contacting you in the next few days re delivery of your prizes.

**Win** a nice shiny copy of **Something's Gotta Give** just let [me know](#) the answers to the following.....

- CREDIT SEQUENCES....
  - What movie featured the first pre-credit sequence?
  - What movie featured the longest pre-credit sequence?
- CULT MOVIES....
  - Which character had the opening lines "Saigon. Shit."?
  - Which character said "You shoot me in a dream, you better wakr up and appologize"?
- STRANGE BUT TRUE?
  - What time is it in Pulp Fiction?
  - What id the oddest movie ever made? (OK, so you can't actually get that one wrong....I'm just interested) and Why?

Competition closes 6th December

## RECENT (online) NEWSLETTERS (Worth a look at.....)

- DVD videoplanet [Upcoming releases 15% off](#)
  - Movie Media [November releases](#) most at 10% off
    - EMPIRE - [can I wait for The Incredibles?](#) NO

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