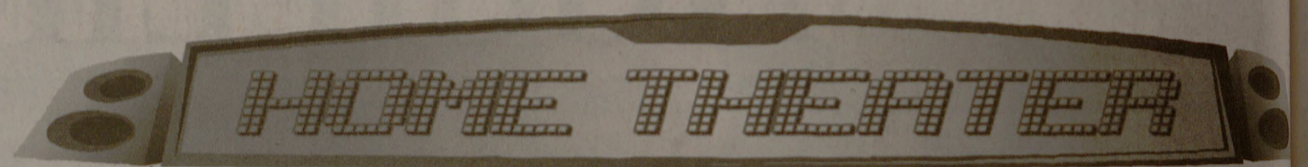


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**"The Tick: The Complete Series"**  
Sony Pictures

Lately, it seems that even the veto power of a television executive can't kill a cancelled show. After their broadcast deaths, many prematurely cancelled television shows have found a second life on DVDs. Every week, for good or bad, DVD shoppers are exposed to more DVD releases of television shows from yesteryear.

Fortunately, fans of comedic television episodes have the chance to be exposed to a winning comedy that unfortunately was cancelled after only nine episodes. In 2001, Fox aired "The Tick," a superhero sitcom based on Fox's Saturday morning action cartoon that was based on an underground comic book that gained a huge fan following.

The live-action sitcom version of "The Tick" included in this two-disc DVD collection is a real treat to watch. Silly humor and ultra-quotable lines that will leave a smile on your face fill each of the episodes. Patrick Warburton stars as the blue giant superhero who patrols his beloved city with his overly cautious flying mothman sidekick, Arthur, played admirably by David Burke. Together, the two interact with all sorts of strange characters in their unending battle with evil and sanity.

Warburton is excellent as the loony arachnid avenger. As his only grip on reality, Burke's portrayal of accountant-turned-crime-fighter Arthur is remarkably well done. Nestor Carbonell is brilliant as a fellow crime-fighter Bat Manuel, a stereotypically suave European seducer who is more interested in finding a new lady in his life and showcasing his good looks than foiling a bank robbery. Rounding out the supporting cast is Liz Vassey as Captain Liberty, a government sponsored lady of justice who finds her life going downhill as she ages.

The DVD set contains nine hilarious episodes featuring the zany misadventures of the superhero. Fans of the comic book or cartoon should take note of the extreme changes in the attitude and nature of the show. Instead of an action packed 30-minute episode, the live-action sitcom is more comparable to "Seinfeld" or "Friends" where the main portion of the show takes place between the action. From the time when every superhero comes out of the spandex closet and tells his parents about his lifestyle choice to the vigilante's insight into the judicial process, the show is witty and often hilarious, but action junkies looking for the next high-octane adventure show may want to know what they're getting into if they pick up this dysfunctional superhero DVD.

The everyday sensibilities of the show's down-to-earth humor make this DVD a great addition to any collection but, unfortunately, the DVD skimps out in the extras department. The two discs feature a commentary on the pilot episode from director Barry Sonnenfeld and four commentaries from Tick creator/writer Ben Edlund. The commentaries are a mediocre attempt at insight into the creation of the series and characters. The two commentators get down to business and only extreme fans of the show should check them out. There is a DVD-ROM link to a video clip of an interview with Warburton. The only other extras are a collection of movie trailers from Sony pictures.

An interesting foray into the slightly surreal life of a superhero when he is off duty, "The Tick" DVD collection contains some funny episodes, but unfortunately the show failed to last long enough to find its niche. Hilarious deliveries of dialogue will keep audiences in laughter as they watch the episodes. The DVD definitely deserves a checkout; just don't feel the need to rush to the store tomorrow.



— Robert S.

If you see it on the video shelves, walk away as fast as you can.

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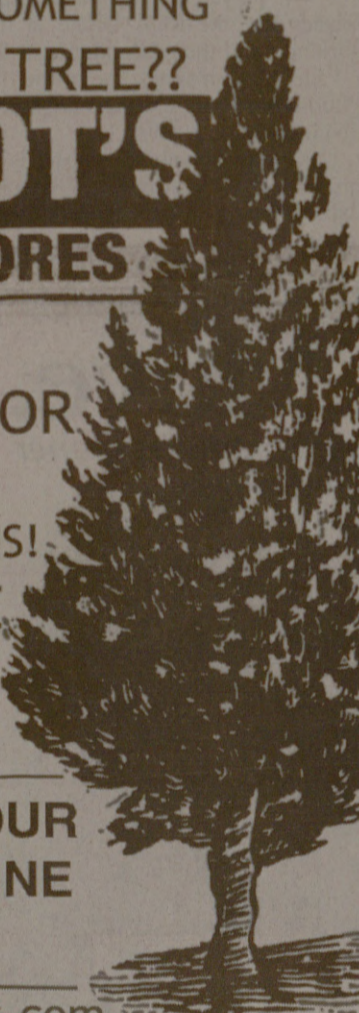
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**PEOPLE IN THE NEWS**

**Microphones found outside Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department**

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP) — Sheriff's officials said several wireless microphones discovered outside their headquarters could be the latest of several attempts by journalists to surreptitiously get information on the Michael Jackson molestation case.

The devices were found in a brushy area where Sheriff's Department employees frequently take breaks and where reporters are not normally allowed. Officials did not say when they discovered the microphones.

"It is being interpreted by the department as an attempt by somebody within the media to garner information that otherwise would not be available," Sgt. Chris Pappas of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, said Saturday.

Hundreds of reporters and photographers converged on the Sheriff's Department on Nov. 20, when Jackson was booked at a nearby jail on suspicion of sexually molesting a child under 14.

The entertainer, who is free on \$3 million bail, has maintained his innocence. Authorities say he probably won't be charged until after Dec. 15.

A man claiming to be a news and photo agency reporter was arrested Nov. 20 after Jackson's security staff found him aboard the entertainer's private plane while Jackson was surrendering to authorities.

Last week, Jackson and his lawyer learned they were secretly videotaped by a camera hidden aboard the plane when Jackson traveled from Las Vegas to Santa Barbara to turn himself in. The discovery triggered an FBI investigation and a lawsuit by Jackson against the charter jet company.

**Howard: New Mexico best setting for "The Missing"**

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — For director Ron Howard, the lonely canyons and remote ranches of New Mexico seemed the perfect background for his suspense film "The Missing."

"The landscape certainly does portray a character," director Howard said.

"In making a suspense film that takes place primarily outdoors, it was important to use the landscape primarily in its most threatening kind of way," he said.

"The Missing" stars Tommy Lee Jones and Cate Blanchett in a tale of a pioneer mother who reunites with her wayward father to hunt for her abducted daughter.

The vastness of the landscape was also key to conveying evil in the film, he said.

"It's one thing to be alone in a dark alley, an abandoned street," he said, "but it's another thing to be all alone out there. There's just an element of threat despite the beauty."

"The Missing" is Howard's first Western. He won an Oscar for directing 2001's "Beautiful Mind."

**Actress Joey Lauren Adams arrested for drunk driving**

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Actress Joey Lauren Adams, who appeared in "Chasing Amy" and "Big Daddy," was arrested on suspicion of drunken driving, police said.

Adams, 38, was later released on her own recognizance, the San Diego Union-Tribune reported.

Police said she was arrested Friday after an officer saw her pull into a gas station and stop after hitting the car a few times.

Adams' blood-alcohol level was immediately available.

Police spokesman Dave Cohen did not return calls seeking comment, and a dispatcher who answered the phone said officers would not comment until Monday.

Adams had roles this year in "A Perfect 10" with Sean Patrick Flanery and "The Big Empty" with Adam Beach. Her earlier movies were "Dr. Doolittle 2" with Ewan McGregor and "Michael" with John Travolta.

She was nominated for the Golden Globe Award as best actress in 1997 for "Chasing Amy."

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