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"Firefly: The Complete Series" Starring Nathan Fillion, Adam Baldwin and Morena Baccarin **Fox Home Video**

Joss Whedon became a master of crafting witty dialogue and outrageous plot twists with his shows "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" t Alice and its spin-off "Angel." So it's a shame that what could quite ussibly have been his best show, "Firefly," was cancelled before thad a chance to spread its wings. "Firefly" is a science-fiction restern that ran for 14 episodes in the fall of 2001 on Fox. Newly eleased on DVD as a box set containing every episode, the show as been granted a new life in the aftermarket.

Combining western sensibilities with an intergalactic saga, "firefly" is a show that's not afraid to bend the rules of what a scime-fiction show is supposed to be. Don't expect any bumpy meheads or pointy ears; "Firefly" lacks extraterrestrial life. instead, the show focuses on character interaction and the ongo-

"Firefly" features the continuing saga of the starship Serenity ndits crew of nine. Captained by Mal Reynolds (Nathan Fillion), is crew battle to survive in a harsh universe 500 years into the ime. Taking work when it comes, the crew isn't afraid to break itew laws, often bringing them trouble from the ever-present liance and shadowy government forces with deadly secrets.

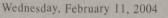
The show features clever dialogue and exceptionally good haracter interaction. Each episode is enjoyable in its own right adfeatures a wide array of subjects from train robberies to bounhunters. The show takes western themes of loyalty and honor ad cleverly inserts them into the far-flung future in a way that's fferent than most American television today.

Characters such as the hilariously lewd Jayne Cobb (Adam addwin) and the space prostitute Inara (Morena Baccarin) add to is colorful cast of characters and bring freshness to every gisode. Whedon's attention to detail works wonderfully to bring life a vast universe and scope that is amazing, considering the umber of episodes produced. From the fact that prostitution is ually one of the most respectable jobs of the future to the use (Chinese as a language as fluent as English, the show has a flair it that most programs lack.

The DVD contains all 14 episodes produced, including the whour original pilot episode and three never-aired episodes. Standout episodes include "Our Mrs. Reynolds," the hilarious story of Capt. Reynold's accidental wife; "Out of Gas," the space horror story interwoven with flashbacks of the crew's beginnings; ad "Objects in Space," which showcases Whedon at his finest with the story of a insane bounty hunter.

The DVD also comes with seven episode commentaries, an mellent mini-documentary on the bittersweet history of the how, a feature on the spaceship's design, four deleted scenes and aggreel. The set includes four disks that are each impressively packaged and designed. The episodes are presented in the order they were meant to be aired, although this privilege was denied to he show when it originally aired.

Overall, "Firefly" is an excellent addition to any DVD collecton Few shows today manage to be as consistently thrilling, meting and hilarious. The set is easily worth its moderately efyprice tag. With a "Firefly" motion picture on the way from inversal, expect to hear big things from the crew of "Serenity."



5A



Mona Lisa Smile

Starring Julia Roberts, Kirsten Dunst

and Maggie Gyllenhaal

Columbia Pictures

which has been lessened over time, but is something that should

women went to college to find a husband and were taught how to

become obedient housewives. It was a time when other options were

she helps influence the minds and viewpoints of her students.

soundtrack augments the feeling and emphasis of the storyline.

not encouraged nor even available for women.

not be forgotten.

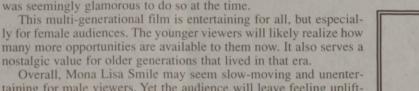
taken aback by Ms. Watson.

Stifling the potential of women is a "crime," the penalty of

'Mona Lisa Smile" takes a step back in time to the 1950s when

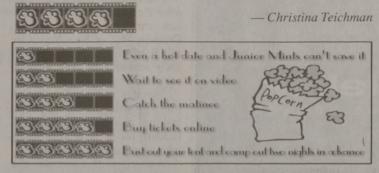






taining for male viewers. Yet the audience will leave feeling uplifted and re-energized.

smoking in the classroom, meetings, dorm rooms, everywhere; it





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Robert Saucedo



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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Film starring Robbins, Morton premiers at Austin's South by Southwest film festival

NEW YORK (AP) - The futurstic "Code 46," starring current Oscar nominees Tim Robbins and Samantha Morton, will have s United States premiere on opening night at the South by Southwest film festival.

The film from director Michael Winterbottom ("24 Hour Party People," "The Claim") is among nearly 200 being shown at the estival, which runs from March 12-20 in Austin, Texas.

"Code 46" is about an insurance investigator (Robbins) and awoman (Morton) who have an affair, but their relationship is complicated by the proliferation of cloning.

Robbins is up for a supporting-actor Oscar for "Mystic River," while Morton is nominated for best actress for "In America."

Also on the South by Southwest schedule, announced Monday, are Kevin Smith's "Jersey Girl," with Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez; and Intermission," with Colin Farrell.

Justin Timberlake heads to Hollywood

NEW YORK (AP) - After adding the title of Grammy winner to his resume, Justin Timberlake is going after another: movie star.

Timberlake will star with Kevin Spacey, Morgan Freeman and LL Cool J in "Edison."

"After many years of look-ing at many scripts, he's decided on what we think is a terrific project," Timberlake's publicist, Ken Sunshine, told Associated Press The Tuesday. "You can judge by the quality of the people associated with the film the direction he's headed as he begins his film career."

The 'N Sync singer will play a young journalist who discovers an elite team of corrupt police. Freeman plays the veteran reporter who helps him, and Spacey plays the district attorney's top investigator.

Simon G.

When asked whether sharing the screen with such formidable company will intimidate Timberlake, Sunshine said, "Justin's 22. I don't think anybody has handled the kind of success he's had in their 22 years better than he has."







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