

March
2008

ANIMATIONTM MAGAZINE



*
Meet the Digital
Creatures of
The Spiderwick
Chronicles

+
The Oscar
Shorts Race
for Dummies

George of the Jungle Swings Back into Toon Town

\$5.95 U.S. \$7.95 CAN.



Rounding Up the Obscure and Celebrated

All about a Warner Bros. release to buzz about, plus a couple under-the-radar discs.

by Mercedes Milligan

Dragonlance: Dragons of Autumn Twilight [Paramount, \$19.99]

Lace up your boots and grab your broadswords, boys and girls, *Dragonlance: Dragons of Autumn Twilight*, the highly-anticipated fantasy epic based on Tracy Hickman's best-selling first book of the popular *Dragonlance Chronicles* series has finally made its DVD debut. The series has also spawned over 75 role-playing releases, six computer games and over 150 novels.

Dragons of Autumn Twilight is based on the Dungeons & Dragon's fan-franchise for which the series is named. It's about a band of heroes—the wizard Raistlin (Keifer Sutherland), priestess Goldmoon (Lucy Lawless) and half-elf warrior Tanis (Michael Rosenbaum)—who band together to protect their fantasy home world, Krynn, from an evil goddess and her army of vicious dragons.

With some remarkable animation

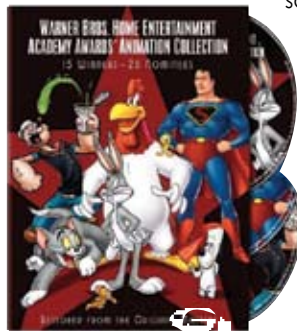


produced by India's Toonz Animation, Commotion Pictures and Epic Level Ent., and directed by animation vet Will Meugniot (*Ultimate Avengers II*), this film is well worth picking up—even if you've never rolled a natural 20.

[Release Date: January 15]

Warner Bros. Home Entertainment Presents: Academy Awards® Animation Collection 15 Winners ~ 26 Nominees [Warner Bros., \$44.98]

Just in time for Oscar season, Warner is releasing this remarkable three-disc collection of—as the title implies—15 Academy Award-winning shorts as well as 26 very worthy nominees. The set includes familiar characters and franchises from Hanna-Barbera, MGM, Max Fleischer, Warner Bros. and others, and is being released to coincide with two huge Hollywood anniversaries: The 85th Anniversary of WB



Studios and the 80th Anniversary of the Academy Awards themselves.

Some of the featured shorts that took home the gold in years past include Tom and Jerry classics *Yankee Doodle Mouse* and *Quiet Please*, Friz Freleng favorite *Knighty-Knight Bugs* and Chuck Jones' abstract MGM-produced love story, *The Dot and the Line*, which has never before been released on DVD. Warner Home's VP of animation marketing, Amit Desai, says of the release, "This is the first time we've released a classic animation title featuring characters from different franchises. We made it our goal to truly showcase some of the finest cartoons ever made." We think this set serves as the perfect warm-up to this year's Animated Short race. See, we can all just get along!

[Release Date: February 12]

Minushi [CreateSpace, \$19]

We count ourselves lucky to exist in a time when new trails are being blazed in all corners of the animation industry, and over the '07 holidays yet another



brand-new piece of toon history was released. *Minushi* is billed as the first feature length film to be created entirely in Flash. Written and realized by independent Canadian animator Tyler Gibb, this 94-minute sci-fi adventure follows two orphans in search of their missing brother in a desolate world of "trigger-happy soldiers, merciless bandits and giant robots."

The movie took Gibb almost four years to complete, during which time he produced over 2,000 sheets of hand drawings and 7,000 hours of animation. During this incredible one-man effort, Gibb survived off of the revenue from banner ads on his site, www.boneland.com, which hosts his other popular cartoons. Now that Gibb is distributing *Minushi* on DVD (himself, of course) fans will be able to enjoy all 19 chapters of the epic (select episodes can be viewed online at Minushi.com), as well as 90 minutes of bonus material including a "making-of" docu. Now, all of you that want to support independent animation: Put your money where your mouth is!

[Release Date: December 13, 2007] ■