

Mario, owner of *The Hole*. As bits of Betty's life are revealed, the suspense and tension hold our interest. The film contains brief nudity and sexual situations. Highly recommended for foreign film collections.—*Tom Budlong, Atlanta-Fulton P.L.*

#### **Black and White**

b&w. 96 min. Blue Line Cinema, dist. by Tapeworm Video, 27833 Ave. Hopkins, #6, Valencia, CA 91355; 805-257-4904. 1994. \$29.95. FILM

Pat Corelli sits in a therapist's office finally trying to deal with his pain. When asked what means the most to him in life, he answers: Abbott and Costello, Joe DiMaggio and baseball, and his friendship with Jacob (Jake) Branch, who is black. Most of the film focuses on Pat's life and on his friendship with Jake. Despite the pressure for him to hate Jake, he maintains their friendship. Pat's loss of a leg in the Korean War doesn't compare to Jake's death at the hands of a Southern mob. Without Jake, Pat's life loses meaning, and he drifts until he ends up with the therapist, wishing he could go back to the way it was. The film is less a study of black/white friendship than one of Pat's life and its destruction. Beware: there is a lot of profanity. For theatrical video collections.—*Danna Bell-Russel, District of Columbia P.L.*

#### **The Saphead; The High Sign; One Week**

b&w & tinted. 108 min.

#### **Sherlock Jr; Our Hospitality**

b&w. 119 min.

#### **The Three Ages; The Goat;**

#### **My Wife's Relations**

b&w. 111 min.

ea. vol. Kino Intl., 333 W. 39th St., Suite 503, New York, NY 10018; 800-562-3330; 212-629-6880. 1995. boxed set \$79.95. FILM

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of Buster Keaton's birth, Kino has released ten tapes in three boxed sets covering the comedian's surviving work from 1920 through 1927. All 11 features and 19 short subjects have been digitally remastered from original archive material and include new musical scores. With regards to only the three tapes in the first set, the genuine masterpiece is *Sherlock Jr.* This amazing 44-minute feature made in 1924 is literally a film within a film. Keaton plays a would-be detective who earns his living as a film projectionist. He dozes off in the middle of a movie he is showing and enters the cinematic world on the screen. Much of the superb comedy derives from the problems Keaton encounters in dealing with a world based on the principles of film. His great achievement is that he forces the audience to realize that reality and the movies are two different things. The other feature films in the set are not of this caliber, but all are well worth viewing. Although *The Saphead* (1920) is the film that made Keaton a star, its roots as a Broadway play are all too evident, and its rigid

structure does not allow Keaton free rein. *Our Hospitality* (1923), Keaton's second feature film, is a nice companion to his classic *The General*. He plays a New Yorker who inherits a Southern estate and an old-fashioned feud along with it. Much more characteristic of Keaton's style, this is full of action-packed visual comedy. *The Three Ages* (1923) is a parody of D.W. Griffiths's *Intolerance*. It tells a single story during three different time periods in history: the Stone Age, Roman times, and the modern era. Keaton switches back and forth telling his story of how true love triumphs in the end. Of particular note among the short subjects are "One Week," in which Keaton labors to build a prefabricated house, and "The Goat," which is a 23-minute continuous slapstick chase based on mistaken identity. This set is a bargain and should be part of all public library collections. Anyone interested in the history of film comedy will want the entire series.—*Joseph D'Elia, Jackson District Lib., Mich.*

#### **Talking with David Frost: Sean Penn**

color. 60 min. David Paradine TV, dist. by PBS Video, 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314-1698; 800-344-3337. 1996. \$69.95. FILM

This interview with Penn could be called "Dead Man Talking." The intensity he exudes on screen is conspicuously lacking here, and he comes across as quite humble, a born romantic with a deep respect for philosophers and writers. Veteran interviewer Frost, who with age now bears an uncanny resemblance to Richard Nixon both in visage and mannerism, chats more with the actor than trying to draw him out. Tying in his Oscar®-nominated performance as a death-row inmate, Penn offers his views on capital punishment, the afterlife, and the nature of God and prayer. There is also, of course, discussion of acting, and Penn speaks briefly on his past sins and regrets (drinking, hell-raising, Madonna). Yet Penn is most animated when discoursing on his lifelong passion for surfing. Contrary to his bad boy image, Penn seems like a regular guy who is more comfortable in his role as a father than as a celebrity. If you're looking for some great insight into this serious actor, you won't find it here.—*Michael Rogers, "Library Journal"*

#### **The Home Care Companion. Vol. 1: How To Care for Someone on Bedrest**

color. 40 min. Healing Arts Communications, 234 Ragan Rd., Box 119, Williams, OR 97544; 541-770-5477. 1996. \$34.95.

Public performance. HEALTH

With the rising costs of healthcare in addition to more personal reasons for wanting to keep a loved one at home, more non-medical caregivers are faced with tending to a seriously ill person. For those individuals, this is an excellent video. Volume 1 of this series provides the basics of caring for someone on bedrest, focusing on mov-

ing the person without injury to oneself while providing knowledge and instilling the confidence necessary to the task. Unfortunately, when covering intimate subjects such as the use of a bedpan, the video tends to be a little too circumspect for this reviewer. Although it won't replace hospice services, this is a very useful adjunct. Volumes 2 and 3, coming out later this year, should be just as useful. Recommended for a general audience.—*Carla McLean, King Cty. Lib. System, Seattle*

#### **Karen Lee's Personal Healthcare Plan for Women in Their Second Forty Years and Beyond**

color. 2 hrs. with personal guide. Wehman Video, 2366 Eastlake Ave. E., Suite 312, Seattle, WA 98102; 206-726-0220. 1994. ISBN 0-9642935-0-1. \$49.95. HEALTH

Setting aside time for oneself, although difficult to accomplish, is very important for physical and emotional health. It is video producer Karen Lee's belief that this commitment of time is particularly valuable for women over 40 who are interested in a healthy second 40 years. In and of itself, this two-hour video requires a serious time commitment, as viewers stop the video to undertake activities that include goal-setting and a personal health history. In return, they will receive a well-structured minicourse in women's healthcare from an advanced registered nurse practitioner. The video is structured as an extended talk to a group of women, punctuated by visuals and questions from the audience. Topics covered include menopause and hormone replacement therapy; sexuality; gynecological disorders; reduction of risk factors and prevention of heart disease, cancer, and osteoporosis; emotional healthcare; and choice of a healthcare provider. The video and accompanying booklet cover a tremendous amount of material. Much of the information may be obtained from a thorough reading of the booklet; the video adds value in the form of an enthusiastic guide. Though this program would be most useful to individuals, given its workbook format, it is highly recommended for public libraries and organizations with patient education collections.—*Carolyn Wilcox, St. Francis Hosp. & Medical Ctr. Lib., Hartford, Ct.*

#### **Freedom and Justice: The Struggle for Civil Rights**

color & b&w. 82 min. with tchr's. guide. Clifton R. Springs, CQ Television Network, 1300 12th St., Suite B, Cayce, SC 29033; 800-569-2141. 1994. \$69.95.

Public performance. HIST

*Freedom and Justice* examines the Civil Rights movement in South Carolina through the work of Cecil J. Williams, a photographer who grew up under segregation. Williams began taking photos at the age of nine and was freelancing while still in high school. Though his photos seldom involve action, the shots of faces and people carrying signs tell the story eloquently.