

DVDS By Berwin Song and Ate Hoekstra

Michael Jackson's This Is It

Since his death, every DVD seller has a stack of MJ videos; here's more proof of China's love for the man: this documentary film, gathering rehearsal footage for his (ultimately cancelled) final concert series, got one of this year's 20 coveted theater slots.



Knowing

This one's been out on DVD for a while, but it's getting a run in Chinese cinemas this month. Alex Proyas (*The Crow*, *Dark City*) directs Nicolas Cage in *National Treasure*-mode, as a professor who gets a list of potential earth-destroying disasters.

The Message

Officially on DVD from Nov 13 (remember, if you see a copy before then, it's a bootleg and you oughta report it!), this spy drama takes place in Japanese-occupied northern China and was one of three films you should have taken a proper gander at over National Day.



A Serious Man

The Coen Brothers churn out yet another (their 14th), this one about a professor (Michael Stuhlbarg) whose life falls apart when his wife leaves him. Expect their trademark grim humor, but critics are divided about whether it's more *Fargo* or *Burn After Reading*.

Amelia Oct 31

Some fledgling Oscar buzz here, with Hillary Swank as the legendary pilot who vanished flying around the world. The film explores her relationship with the men in her life: her husband (Richard Gere), lover (Ewan McGregor) and navigator (Christopher Eccleston).



The Late Show with David Letterman

They don't release this on DVD, but they oughta. This year's been a big one for Letterman, from his own recent openly-aired sex scandal to Joaquin Phoenix's breakdown. *The Tonight Show* might usually get the ratings, but Letterman's the one making history.

Simpsons Season 21

Celebrating their 20th year (making it the longest-running TV show ever), the Simpsons have plenty planned for this season, including a *Playboy* cover for Marge, plenty of guest stars and a documentary directed by Morgan Spurlock (set to air in January).



Curb Your Enthusiasm Season 7

After a two-year absence, Larry David is back with a vengeance – and this season, he's got the cast of *Seinfeld* backing him up (as themselves). For now though, Larry's just trying to use them as a way to win back Cheryl, who left him in Season 6.

CELLULOID CHINA By Roxanne Mei

10 Chinese celebrity gossip headlines



Andy Lau's secret marriage!

Only recently did Hong Kong's all-time diamond bachelor let news about his marriage leak – though he's actually been married since June 2008. The lucky bride? Carol Chu, who Lau had been dating for two decades. Love on the run indeed!



Zhang Yuan returns!

Independent director Zhang Yuan (*Beijing Bastards*) seems to be back on track with his latest, *DaDa's Dance*, after a high-profile drug scandal. Gossip update: He's in love with the lead actress Li Xinyun (DaDa).



Chow Yun-fat disses Confucius!

Having wrapped up a biopic of the great philosopher, lead actor Chow surprised everybody by saying that he didn't actually like the role. His reasons? "I don't look like him, and I don't know much about him either." Who needs method acting?



Kelly Chen's pregnancy!

When Hong Kong cantopop singer Kelly Chen checked out of the hospital in high heels and a hot dress just seven days after giving birth, rumors that she faked her pregnancy abounded. Or maybe people were just jealous.



Carina Lau fights back!

You'd think hearing constant rumors about her husband Tony Leung's affair with Maggie Cheung would have Ms. Lau in tatters, but no. Showing her scorn for the media, she says with confidence: "We'll keep playing for you."



Zhang Ziyi's Revenge!

After the furious attack on her 'beach-gate' photos early this year, China's superstar actress ignored the haters and charged ahead with producing (and starring in) her latest romantic comedy, *Sophie's Revenge*, making bank along the way.



Liu Yifei's fake wardrobe!

Sure, she's known as the classic beauty in most of her roles, and we were all impressed by her impeccably fresh fashion sense. Did she have a special relationship with designers? Nope. Turns out her 'brand' clothes were just copies.



Winston Chao's massive ego!

Taiwanese actor Winston Chao always appears as a gentleman on screen, but when it comes to the Internet, he personally takes on various attacks on his blog with gusto. He's even encouraged netizens to photoshop his photos. The fool!



Chen Kaige's fading Promise!

2005 was not a good year for this Fifth Generation star director. Any respect for his highly anticipated (and highly expensive) film, *The Promise*, collapsed with Hu Ge's cheaply-made online parody *A Murder Case Caused by a Mantou*.



Song Zude: the king of media hype!

The Perez Hilton of China – now a celebrity after dishing nasty gossip about other celebrities. His 'career' (and personal celebrity status) blew up when he broke a few big scandals. We'd ignore him, but the man just won't shut up.