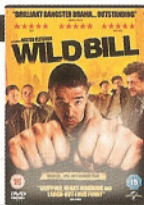


# THE 10 BEST DVDs of 2012

SPECTACULAR MOVIES, MOVING DOCUMENTARIES AND ASTOUNDING TV SERIES...



## Wild Bill

UNIVERSAL

On paper this sounded like just another low-budget BritCrime affair crawling with gangsters, guns, drug-dealing and teenage mums. But Dexter "Press Gang" Fletcher's debut film turned out to be so much more: a superbly touching, funny and beautifully acted story of hard choices and redemption, set against a backdrop of ambivalent regeneration as East London is reshaped for the 2012 Olympics. Rightly heralded as one of the best British pictures in years, *Wild Bill* demonstrates that it's entirely possible to make urban dramas that revel in life, rather than the taking of it.

ALI CATTERALL

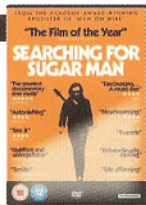


## Homeland: Series 1

20TH CENTURY FOX HOME  
ENTERTAINMENT

A Trojan Horse for our time, with the perils of terrorism lurking (or is it?) beneath the beguiling exterior of Damian Lewis's character, the ex-POW US Marine Brody. Perhaps an even bigger surprise lies in the fact that the subversive *Homeland* is made by Fox 21, media sibling of Rupert Murdoch's Fox News. With Clare Danes superb as Brody's fractured CIA opponent, and a view of the jihadists that verges on the understanding, *Homeland* is far from a simple black-and-white "war on terror" propaganda piece.

ROY WILKINSON



## Searching For Sugar Man

STUDIOCANAL

Debut film-maker Bendjelloul struck gold first time with his "you couldn't make it up" tall but true tale about Rodriguez, a forgotten Mexican-American singer-songwriter who woke up one morning to discover he was an anti-establishment icon in another continent altogether. This powerfully moving, inspirational film reached Number 7 at the UK box office during a summer of blockbusters, a remarkable achievement for a tiny indie documentary – and testament to sheer word of mouth. If it's good enough, they will come.

ALI CATTERALL



## Avengers Assemble

DISNEY

Not even a clumsy last-minute title change could check *Avengers Assemble's* stride. Producers were worried that audiences might confuse the superhero supergroup with the '60s British spy series – but they had not reckoned with the swagger of Joss Whedon's film. With extreme-sport spectacle and Robert Downey Jr's wisecracks at its core, it showed that superheroes don't always have to be frowning, reflective types. It lacked the dramatic intensity of *The Dark Knight Rises* but, as Iron Man might say, *Avengers Assemble* had a Hulk.

NIALL DOHERTY



## Last Shop Standing

The Rise, Fall & Rebirth Of  
The Independent Record  
Shop

PROPER FILMS

Record Store Day risks tipping into tokenism by giving over just one day a year to applaud indie record stores. Here instead is the real and very human story of the people – obsessives and amiable misfits all – who man the diminishing number of UK independent stores. They display heart-swelling resilience against the endless kicking from downloads, Amazon and supermarkets to keep our greatest cultural and community centres up and running.

EAMONN FORDE



## The Chemical Brothers: Don't Think

PARLOPHONE

What's the most important part of a Chemical Brothers gig? Even Tom Rowlands and Ed Simons would admit that it's not pictures of them nodding their heads. The genius move of this riotous live film was to drop cameras into the crowd at Fuji Rock 2011, capturing the elation and disorientation of the show as it's truly experienced. Intercutting the Chems' famed "blinding visuals", director Adam Smith creates a live epic to equal classics such as *Talking Heads' Stop Making Sense*.

ANDREW HARRISON



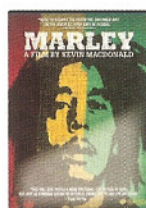
## Shut Up And Play The Hits

The Very Loud Ending Of  
LCD Soundsystem

PULSE FILMS

Based around the final show by the self-implosion punk-funkers on 2 April 2011 at Madison Square Garden, this part-concert, part-documentary film is oddly moving. The camera trails deflated frontman James Murphy the morning after the breakup – walking his tiny French bulldog Petunia, frittering away time having a lengthy, slightly disgusting shave and gently weeping among his collection of vintage synths. A reminder of just how great LCD Soundsystem were.

TOM DOYLE



## Marley

UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Even for Glasgow-born director Kevin Macdonald, whose credits include the award-winning documentaries *Touching The Void* and *One Day In September*, it seemed a tall order to uncover the real man behind the "icon of rebelliousness", some 30 years after Bob Marley's death. But it's a revelation to see the reggae superstar painted as a politically naïve, serially womanising Competitive Dad. And nothing prepares you for the heart-rending closing images of an ailing, dreadlocked Marley living out his final days in a remote Bavarian clinic. An honest, emotional portrait of a flawed musical legend.

SIMON MCEWEN

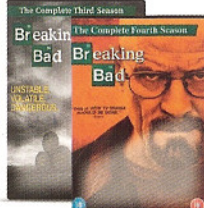


## The Bridge

ARROW

TV was the place to be in 2012 if you like your heroines blonde and slightly unhinged. While *Homeland's* Carrie battled al-Qaeda and bipolar disorder, severely Aspergic Swedish copper Saga Norén (Sofia Helin) walked away with this flawless 10-part Scandi thriller. Divided between Copenhagen and Malmö, its focus is the hunt for the Truth Terrorist, a serial killer whose perversely inventive M.O. hints at motivations beyond the usual grudges against society. The interplay with Martin, Saga's philandering Danish counterpart, is priceless. Maverick cops will never be the same again.

STEVE YATES



## Breaking Bad: Seasons 3 & 4

SONY

The committed will already know these as the seasons that cemented this show's greatness. Walter White's ascent to the meth game's major league, and his corresponding descent even further into evil, ratchets up the tension to excruciating levels. Season 4's literally explosive conclusion is already something of a modern TV classic. Amid the chaos, betrayal, heartbreak and death are two astounding performances from Giancarlo Esposito and Jonathan Banks as, respectively, an enigmatic druglord and his "cleaner". Why on earth aren't you watching it yet?

PAUL MCGEE