



DVD&Blu-ray reviews

By Ben Walsh

Searching for Sugar Man
(12) Malik Bendjelloul DVD/
Blu-ray (86mins) ★★★★★

"To many of us South Africans he was the soundtrack to our lives," claims record-shop owner "Sugar" Segerman about Sixto Rodriguez (*above*), a Mexican-American folk singer little appreciated in his homeland. However, a bootleg copy of his debut 1970 album, *Cold Fact*, somehow found its way to South Africa, and became a huge hit and an inspiration for the anti-apartheid movement. This absorbing documentary explores Rodriguez's legacy and what he's been up to (demolition work, mainly) for the past 40 years.

American Horror Story: Season 1
(18) Various directors DVD/
Blu-ray (520mins) ★★★★★

"Great, so we're the Addams family now," sulks teenage Violet staring up at her particularly sinister new home. Another teen pops by to tell Connie Britton's mother "You're going to die in here". The Harmon family should run. Of course they should, but they don't and this splendidly odd horror begins. There's a lot to admire about Ryan Murphy's unhinged, wildly inventive series, but Jessica Lange's foul-mouthed mother ("I'm a good Christian, but Jesus H Christ") is a creepy delight.

Total Recall
(12) Len Wiseman DVD/
Blu-ray (118mins) ★★

The Arnie Schwarzenegger version of Philip K Dick's adroit short story was lurid and messy but it was also memorable. This isn't. Colin Farrell (with Kate Beckinsale

below), plays Quaid, a factory worker who has a recurring dream that he's a rebel fighter in an ongoing war between nation states. So he visits a sinister company called Rekall who promise to implant fantasy memories into Quaid's brain. In the main this is just another loud, dimly lit, dimly scripted actioner.

Star Trek: The Next Generation: Season 2 on Blu-ray
(12) Various directors Blu-ray
(1,300mins) ★★★★★

Season Two ushers in Whoopi Goldberg's astute/banal barmaid, and, more vitally, the Borg, *The Next Gen's* finest creation and most compelling baddies, which are introduced by the meddlesome, all-powerful Q (John de Lancie, hamming it up beautifully). There's more bite here as the show begins to get into its stride, and the standout episodes nearly all revolve around the sensitive android Data (Brett Spiner), who becomes a cause for concern in "The Schizoid Man". A superior sci-fi series.

The Rolling Stones: Charlie Is My Darling
(E) Peter Whitehead DVD/
Blu-ray (65mins) ★★★

"You have to be very egotistical, 'cos you're acting," maintains Mick Jagger about his frontman role in this absorbing document of The Rolling Stones' Ireland tour in 1965. His fellow "actors" are equally revelatory, with Brian Jones admitting "I've always been a bit apprehensive of the future", and the outfit's "rock", Charlie Watts, claiming, "I'm happiest at home". Backstage footage and some boozy jamming (Keef and Mick playfully perform "Eight Days a Week") are interspersed with a terrific live show that includes "The Last Time" and "Satisfaction".

