

HOME CINEMA OUR PICK OF THIS WEEK'S DVDS

TOTAL RECALL (12)

★★★★☆

DVD, Blu-ray, VoD

Colin Farrell is good but fighting an uphill battle in Len Wiseman's humourless reworking of Paul Verhoeven's 1990 blockbuster. And it's no more like the original Philip K Dick story, *We Can Remember It For You Wholesale*, except in the hero's collision between fantasy and reality. In a post-apocalyptic, dystopian future, depressed factory worker Quaid (Farrell) wants exciting false memories of being a secret agent implanted. Enter the bad guys, because it seems he really is a dangerous double agent whose memory was erased. Havoc ensues in darkly extravagant production design and frantic action that is eye-popping but wearying as you struggle to make sense of this implausible world. (No one goes to Mars, by the way.) Wiseman's wife, Kate Beckinsale, frowns her pretty



way through an expanded role as Quaid's wife turned relentless pursuer, overshadowing Jessica Biel's love interest, Bryan Cranston's dictator and Bill Nighy's rebel leader. There's a lot of craft and energy but a

sad absence of satire or humanity – though the Blu-ray extras are a buff's banquet. **Angie Errigo**

SEARCHING FOR SUGAR MAN (12)

★★★★☆ DVD, Blu-ray

First-time director Malik Bendjelloul unearthed documentary gold with the story of Sixto Rodriguez; a man who didn't know he was famous. And you can't fail to be moved by this handsomely filmed tale. Mexican-American Rodriguez's two early 1970s albums of haunting protest songs and trenchant street poetry



bombed in the US, despite those who worked with him comparing him to Dylan. But somehow, Rodriguez acquired 'rebel icon' status in South Africa: his political awareness electrified the white, liberal middle-classes and energised opposition to apartheid, making him 'bigger than Elvis'. Lurid urban myth abounded about the singer's fate. It was only in the 1990s that Rodriguez – a manual labourer in Detroit, who'd

received no royalties from his multi-platinum foreign sales – was 'discovered' by determined South African fans and experienced a slice of his fame. Bendjelloul drags out the 'hunt' a little and the facts about Rodriguez's obscurity may have been massaged a bit but this is still an uplifting treat, largely because Rodriguez is a humble, unassuming and hugely talented man. And the music is sensational. **Siobhan Murphy**



THE DARDENNES COLLECTION (15)

★★★★★ DVD

Belgian film-makers Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne have been thrilling juries at Cannes since their 1996

feature debut, *The Promise*. This six-disc boxset collects all their films to date, up to 2011's Grand Prix winner, *The Kid With A Bike*. The Dardenne's unsentimental approach to grittily realist storytelling always speaks to the essential humanity of and search for redemption by their characters – frequently young people struggling on the margins of impoverished, post-industrial Belgian life. The Dardenne approach is to observe and pass no judgment but the existences we're plunged into each time can seem exhaustingly grim. However, you can't fail to admire these richly constructed, morally complex characters and the searing honesty of their lives. **SM**