

rary standards it's all deliciously shocking and wonderfully radical...not because these women are particularly unusual, but rather because it's so rare to see women publicly claiming their places as sexual beings in their own right and for their own enjoyment. DVD extras include an interview with Treut. Recommended for more adventurous collections. Aud: C, P. (M. Johanson)

Linda & Ali: Two Worlds Within Four Walls ★★★

(2005) 94 min. In Arabic w/English subtitles. DVD or VHS: \$89; public libraries; \$295; colleges & universities. Women Make Movies. PPR.

Mixed marriages bring additional challenges, particularly in the modern world between Arab men and American women. Such a union is the subject of Lut Vandekeybus' surprisingly cheerful documentary *Linda & Ali*—filmed over several years—which offers a close-up look at the family life of Ali Saigal, a Qatari businessman, and his wife Linda. The pair have been married for 20 years, the last 15 of which they've lived in Qatar, where Linda has adopted the practices of Shiite women, including the code of dress and attitudes of social separatism between women and men (the couple also have seven children, whom they struggle to raise in accordance with Muslim cultural

norms). Basically a portrait of a loving and supportive family, the film occasionally focuses on areas of difference between husband and wife by showing episodes in which they argue over expectations concerning each other or their sons and daughters. But while *Linda & Ali* deftly weaves together themes of familial solidarity with hints of an underlying cultural clash, the spotlighted couple is hardly an extreme example of the divisions such marriages can create. Qatar, after all, is a comparatively progressive society, and while Linda tells us she was raised Catholic, she converted to Islam in her teens, and she and Ali met while both were college students in America. Nevertheless, this is an engaging look at a family whose lives fall outside the experience of most Americans. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (F. Swietek)

HOLIDAYS & CELEBRATIONS

The Day of the Dead: A Celebration of Family and Life ★★

(2006) 91 min. DVD: \$14.99. Image Entertainment (avail. from most distributors).

Often wrongly assumed to be Mexico's answer to America's celebration of Halloween, the Day of the Dead (usually held October

31-November 2) has become one of the most recognized holidays on the Hispanic calendar. Derived from Aztec, Mayan, and Incan festivals, El Día de los Muertos finds Hispanics honoring their dead with music, art, dance, storytelling, processions, and colorful altars decorated with flowers, photos, and mementos, while also enjoying food such as candied skulls, "dead bread," and pudding. Far from being a morbid event, the holiday is a time of recollection and healing. Filmmaker Stephanie Heredia's documentary is a celebration of the Day of the Dead, combining interviews with celebrants, footage of original art and altars to the loved and lost, and excerpts from concerts and dance events. Unfortunately, after a strong beginning the film loses its focus and tends toward repetition, concluding with a final half-hour of tedious, unedited concert footage. Because of the numerous references to area musicians and artists, southern California libraries might want to pick this up, but this overlong documentary is strictly a marginal purchase for others. Aud: P. (S. Rees)

Myths, Legends & Traditional Holidays from Latin America ★★★

(2006) 32 min. DVD: 19.95. Saber Latino. PPR. ISBN: 0-9788209-0-8.

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from Latin America, viewers join computer-animated Ana and her little brother Andrés on a whirlwind tour of creation legends from Argentina and Mexico, ghost stories from Cuba, and holidays in Mexico, Peru, Columbia, and Puerto Rico, all featuring specific Spanish vocabulary. Each festival or myth is presented as a separate 3-4 minute segment, animated in various 2-D styles (the animation is fairly rudimentary, but it's obvious that the producers were going for an artistic—the woodblock-style pieces are especially nice—rather than flashy look). The program is presented in both English and Spanish, so the voice talents for Ana and Andrés have a strong Latin accent on the English soundtrack; however, it's much better to have all the Spanish words pronounced correctly. An affordable, kid-friendly introduction to various aspects of Latin culture, DVD extras include a trivia game, glossary, and a calendar of traditional Hispanic festivals. Recommended. Aud: E, I, P. (*E. Gieschen*)

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

Buffett & Gates Go Back to School

★★★

(2006) 60 min. DVD: \$24.99 (\$54.95 w/PPR). PBS Video. Closed captioned. ISBN: 0-7936-9285-7.

Business tycoons Warren Buffett and Bill Gates hail from different eras and backgrounds, and they built their fortunes in vastly dissimilar ways, yet both share certain key philosophical principles and have great affection for each other. In this hour-long PBS special, filmed last year during a Q&A session before a live audience at the University of Nebraska's College of Business Administration, Buffett and Gates each display qualities for which they've become American icons: energy, enthusiasm, and a profound confidence in the ability of any man or woman to achieve success with the right combination of intelligence, training, hard work, perseverance, and—yes—luck. The pair candidly discuss the accumulation of wealth and power, but they also stress the importance of philanthropy and achieving inner peace. Not that every word is wisdom, mind you—some of their answers are clichéd and others disappointingly banal. But for the most part, what Buffett and Gates have to share is both inspirational and practical. A fine follow-up to their earlier filmed chat *Buffett & Gates on Success* (VL-1/99), this is recommended. Aud: H, C, P. (*E. Hulse*)

Now What? Non-College Opportunities for High School Graduates ★★★

(2006) 16 min. DVD or VHS: \$139.95 (teacher's guide included). Human Relations Media. PPR. Closed captioned. ISBN: 1-55548-028-4 (dvd), 1-55548-028-4 (vhs).

The title of this guide to post-high school



The Virtual Job Interview ★★★

(2005) 30 min. DVD: \$29.98. Daniel Peters Productions (avail. from most distributors). PPR.

At first, this title appeared to be like every other job interview program, encouraging viewers to dress for success, don't chew gum, watch out for illegal questions, etc. And then came the interactive segment with Mr. Aitcher, the HR supervisor, who asks questions and presents viewers with four possible answers. The interview questions themselves are fairly standard ("What do you consider your weaknesses to be?", "How would you handle stress on the job?", "Why should we hire you?", and so on) but the right answers are not always easy to determine. If you select the right answer, Mr. Aitcher grins and gives you a verbal high five; answer wrong, and he grimaces with displeasure...but he also lets you know how to improve your response. The interactive "virtual" job interview aspect elevates this witty, practical, and effective guide above similarly-themed fare. Recommended. Aud: H, C, P. (*J. Carlson*)

opportunities is slightly misleading, as further education (such as junior college or vocational/technical school) is actually emphasized throughout the program, which is structured as a series of testimonials from real-life young people who have built viable careers without four-year degrees. Viewers will meet a plumbing apprentice, a custom cabinetry draftsman, an aircraft technician, a medical center manager, a Coast Guardswoman, and a small-business manager, who all talk about their career decisions, what steps they took for preparation, and the skills required for their jobs. Proficiency in communication, math, and computer literacy are also emphasized, and the program underscores the importance of matching personality and individual interests with a potential career when considering options (in addition, joining the military is presented as an alternative means of gaining on-the-job training, as well as helping to fund a future college education). While not as practical as it might have been—the program serves up personal stories as examples rather than "how-to" specifics—this title does fill an important need for high school students who are not planning to take the traditional four-year university route right out of high school. Recommended. Aud: H, P. (*E. Gieschen*)

SPORTS, GAMES & RECREATION

Baserunning & Bunting Drills ★★★

(2006) 34 min. DVD: \$24.95. Youth Sports Club. PPR. ISBN: 0-9748517-1-X.

Clocking in with a tip nearly every minute or so, *Baserunning & Bunting Drills* covers what youth sports coach/instructional video producer Marty Schupak calls the two most underrated and under-coached skills in youth baseball—base running and bunting. In the base running section, many of the tips are designed to help players capitalize on their natural momentum, and include various

methods of running past first base (pausing can lose the player precious seconds), bouncing off first to second (while running or stealing), elliptical running to help round the bases with lightning speed, and the art of sliding. Also mentioned are effective communications between the players and the first base coach, crucial in alerting the runner whether to stop at first or continue on to second base. Coaches are also advised to teach bunting at an early age, and the bunting segment offers solid instruction in aiming techniques, with drills sometimes using alternatives to regulation bats, such as an oversize plastic bat or a tennis racket. A fine addition to the Youth Sports Club lineup of sports instructional titles, this is recommended. Aud: I, J, H, P. (*C. Block*)

The St. Louis Cardinals 2006 World Series: Collector's Edition ★★★1/2

(2006) 8 discs. 988 min. DVD: \$79.95. A&E Home Video. PPR. ISBN: 0-7670-9456-5.

The St. Louis Cardinals 2006 World Series: Collector's Edition DVD boxed set is—dramatically speaking—the story of the underdog team from St. Louis, who took the World Series from the Detroit Tigers in five games despite having a lousy regular season (a mere 83 wins), proving that baseball is not a game of statistics but of what's happening on the field in the here-and-now. This eight-disc set features the fifth and seventh games of the National League Championship Series pitting the Cardinals against the New York Mets and all five World Series games in their entirety on separate discs (with attractive jackets pointing out game highlights and player stats), along with an excellent bonus disc featuring the topnotch feature-length documentary "The 2006 World Series Film," narrated by Cardinals fan Billy Bob Thornton, which revisits the season and features plenty of interview clips with players and celebrity fans, as well as a generous amount of film footage from previous times—most recently in 1968—the Cards faced the Tigers in the World Series.