Entertainment



It's back to school time - in video

By Patrick Freestone

It's that time of year. Return for a couple of hours to those studious years you spent doodling at your desk and learning about life from your teachers and other crazy adults. Yes, indeed, schools in at your video store.

To Sir With Love (1967)

Sidney Poitier plays an unorthodox teacher in an East London slum. His class may not be made up of the toughest kids but they are certainly the most sentimental.

When lessons in history and geography go nowhere, Poitier replaces them with lessons in life. His victories are small and sweet so get the Kleenex ready.

The Breakfast Club (1985)

Personally, I'm not a big fan of John Hughes but he gets straight A's for this effort. A princess, a jock and delinquent, a brain, and a basket case spend a weekend in detention. What happens is a therapy session where they bond together under one banner, "My parents don't understand me."

My Bodyguard (1980)

This is the movie to watch before starting at a new school. Clifford (Chris Makepeace) is the new boy in school. The school bully, Moody, (Matt Dillon) demands a dollar a day protection money from Clifford. Instead of paying, Clifford

enlists thug, Lindeman, (Adam Baldwin) as his bodyguard.

The finale isn't surprising no-one is exactly as they appear - Lindeman not as mean, Moody not as tough and Clifford not as helpless.

Funny, uplifting and pleasantly unassuming.

Carrie (1976)

Carrie White (Sissy Spacek) is clumsy and withdrawn. Therefore, she's ridiculed at school. At home, her mother thumps the Bible. So what's a girl to do - kill her mother, classmates, teachers and principal? Spacek and Director, Brian DePalma are perfect. Best translation of a Stephen King novel to screen.

The Bad Seed (1956) Rhoda Penmark is the perfect child - polite, clean, well- Jeff Spicoli, is legendary. disciplined. That is until she loses the third grade penmanship medal to a classmate. When the classmate drowns, we learn there's another side to Rhoda. This film is not the traditional gory horror movie, but rather focuses on Mrs. Penmark as she discovers the true nature of her daughter.

Fast Times at

Ridgemont High (1985) Entertaining look at

Southern California high school kids who hang out at the mall and think mostly of

Funny, entertaining and so believable, it's scary. Sean Penn's turn as stoned surfer, Moyle.

Pump Up the Volume (1990)

Another little gem that failed at the box office because it hits a little too close to home. Christian Slater is a new student and doesn't fit in. He starts a pirate radio station to talk about his fears. A connection is forged with the student listeners who realize they are not so alone.

The film has some frank and pertinent things to say about growing up that you don't always find in youthappeal films. Slater is terrific as is first-time director Allan

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