

# + DVD & Video



Dorothy & Co. bask in the "beautiful wickedness"

## 'Oz' Celebre

There's no place like DVD for *The Wizard of Oz* and its enchanting collector's edition. **by Dalton Ross**

**Judy Garland, Ray Bolger**  
*G, 103 mins., 1939 (Warner)*

The 1999 *Oz* disc was crammed full of magical extras—deleted scenes, documentaries, screen tests. The package was so pristine it was named EW's DVD of the year. You can now throw it away. That's because an exhaustive new set featuring all this plus oodles more proves as precious as Dorothy's ruby slippers.

Following the yellow brick

road through all three discs takes about 15 hours, but it's a journey every film buff should make. A plethora of docs cover Toto's real gender (he is actually a *she*), the feminist interpretation of the film (beyond Toto, of course), and "the advent of a breakthrough technology—lip-synching." And the five previous versions of *Oz* include a slapsticky entry from 1925 with Oliver Hardy as the Tin Woodsman and a truly bizarre ending in which the Scare-

crow apparently plunges to his death (talk about brainless).

The film looks fabulous thanks to a fancy-schmancy process called Ultra-Resolution (there's a doc on that too), and features a top-notch track of old interviews with the cast and poor Buddy Ebsen, who was bumped from the role of Scarecrow and then forced to bow out as the Tin Man after having an allergic reaction to the aluminum-dust makeup. "They thought I bore a grudge and now I was going to get even with them," says Ebsen. "They never quite believed that I was really sick." What's truly sick is the astounding wealth of information and archival footage here. As Peter Jackson says in one of the extras, "You can feel the heart and care that's gone into every frame of that film." You could say the same for the entire package. **A**

### DVD Q&A

#### Radha Mitchell



The actress who plays **Melinda and Melinda** (*PG-13, 99 mins., 2005, Fox*)—both of 'em—had us seeing double as she discussed working with Woody (Allen) and Will (Ferrell). —Charles Curtis

**How did you land the part?** I got a call on my cell from Woody asking if I wanted to be in this movie. We didn't meet until the wardrobe fitting, and the next day we started shooting. **What do you think of his writing?** There's something naturalistic about it. A lot of the time you don't talk to the people you're in the scene with—you talk to yourself. It's a comment on modern society. People don't really listen to each other.

**Which Melinda did you like more?** I had trouble loving the tragic Melinda at first. But it was more interesting to play that one. **Who's weirder to work with: Johnny Depp (on *Finding Neverland*) or Will Ferrell?** I guess Johnny's less...typical. But everybody has their dark secrets, don't they? Will's so nice, he must have a dark secret somewhere!

### Holiday DVD of the Week

#### 'VIRTUAL CHANUKAH'

This interactive DVD may not be as tasty as an actual latke, but with recipes, games, and songs, it offers a 21st-century celebration of 2,000-year-old traditions.

