

FEMMES FATALES

Sharon & Co.

What's that, pally? You like your seductresses slinky, your bombshells blond? We not only have Sharon Stone in new "unrated" special-edition DVDs of **Basic Instinct** (127 mins., 1992, Lionsgate) and **Sliver** (107 mins., 1993, Paramount), we've got more recommendations for DVD dates with female devils and the men who eagerly sell their souls to them. —KT



**BARBARA STANWYCK** in *Double Indemnity* (1944) Like Stone in *Instinct*, Stanwyck—her brunet tresses dyed blond—forces a sap who's a cad (Michael Douglas, meet Fred MacMurray) to do things he shouldn't oughta do, all for a dame and some dough.



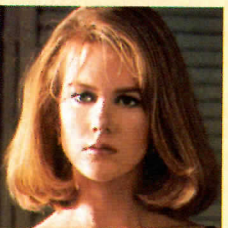
**KIM NOVAK** in *Vertigo* (1958) For director Alfred Hitchcock, the blonde was frequently a talisman of trouble, vulnerability, and desire. Novak, deft and demure in a dual role, shatters poor neurotic Jimmy Stewart's San Francisco soul—he literally falls for her.



**CATHERINE DENEUVE** in *Belle de Jour* (1967) A foreign smoldering-blonde entry: Deneuve plays a callow newlywed who starts hooking in a high-class Paris brothel. Director Luis Buñuel makes the virgin/whore cliché surreal, dangerous, and sensuous.



**ANNETTE BENING** in *The Grifters* (1990) As a wiggly, giggly, blond-streaked con artist who sets up John Cusack by letting him think he's pulling the scam she's conned him into executing, brainy Bening turns her shrewd bimbo role into a radiantly carnal performance.



**NICOLE KIDMAN** in *To Die For* (1995) Soon after Stone scissored her legs and snipped our brain stems with lust, Kidman was clouding men's minds as an ambitious, flaxen-haired weathergirl with wanton murder in her blizzard-cold heart. Funny and scary.



Memoirs' den mother Yeoh

MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA

Ziyi Zhang, Ken Watanabe, Michelle Yeoh, Gong Li  
PG-13, 145 mins., 2005 (Sony)  
Recent Release

A picture is worth a thousand words in director Rob Marshall's film adaptation of Arthur Golden's best-selling novel about Sayuri (Zhang), a 1930s Japanese Cinderella-turned-courtesan. *Geisha's* visual exquisiteness was rewarded at the Academy Awards—with Oscars for art direction, costumes, and cinematography—but with its soap-operatic plot, the film falls short of epic. And, unfortunately, on the small screen even its beauty loses impact. **EXTRAS** The best of the 11 featurettes includes interviews with former geisha/film consultant Liza Dalby and the actresses, who had to endure training in gruelingly complex fan tricks and other esoteric skills, in "Geisha Boot Camp." Designers explain how they built an entire town without a single greenscreen. And Chef Nobu Matsuhisa—the self-proclaimed "Codfather"—invites viewers into his kitchen, where he cooks new-style sashimi, black cod with miso sauce, and mushroom to-ban yaki, and provides recipes, too. Iron Chef, watch your back!  
**B-** —Charles Curtis

I LOVE YOUR WORK

Giovanni Ribisi, Franka Potente  
R, 111 mins., 2005 (ThinkFilm)  
Drama

**E**ntourage's caricature of celebrity meets *The Conversation's* paralyzing paranoia in this quirky psychotriller. Ribisi's frazzled Hollywood It Kid is unhinged by his fear of fervent fans, suspicions that Elvis Costello (playing himself) is frisky for his wife (Potente), and an odd obsession with a video-store clerk (Joshua Jackson). Directed by Adam Goldberg, the festival fave (which had a momentary theatrical run) can suffer from film-school-cool self-indulgence (mishmashed chronology, non-diegetic noise, even a musical number), while feeling like one actor's celluloid apology for forgetting his pre-fame friends. This posturing aside, Ribisi's sallow, spooked demeanor is pitch-perfect. **EXTRAS** The commentary brandishes a fratty rapport between director and star. After Ribisi repeatedly complains about his double chin, Goldberg snipes: "What were we gonna do? Perform plastic surgery on the spot?"  
**B** —Timothy Gunatilaka

AU REVOIR LES ENFANTS

Gaspard Manesse, Raphael Fejtö, Irène Jacob  
Unrated, 101 mins., 1987 (Criterion)  
Foreign/France

**L**ouis Malle's irresistible autobiographical tearjerker takes place at a Catholic boarding school in occupied France, where a Jewish boy named Bonnet (Fejtö) is



Fejtö and Manesse

DOUBLE INDEMNITY: VERTIGO, BELLE DE JOUR: ERRETT COLLECTION; THE GRIFTERS: SUZANNE HANOVER; TO DIE FOR: KERRY HAVES; MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA: DAVID JAMES; AU REVOIR LES ENFANTS: ORION CLASSICS/PHOTOFEST