

# What to buy

*A quick consumer's guide by Jeff Heinrich*

## Great films, other regions

It's easy to buy foreign DVDs. Just go to international online retailers or the producers' websites themselves. Amazon, for example, has sites in Britain, France, Germany and other countries, with prices and DVD versions specific to each. With a credit card number and an address to ship to, you'll get your DVD in a matter of days. Shipping charges vary. Additional charges at this end vary, too: usually anything over \$20 will be stopped at customs and you'll be charged a \$5 fee and both federal and provincial taxes. But often packages get through customs unchecked and tax-free.

## Only available abroad

*Some classics aren't for sale on DVD in Canada, but are abroad. Here are 10 titles and the companies that have produced the best DVD versions overseas.*

**Brighton Rock** (1947) *Optimum, U.K.*

**Chacun cherche son chat** (1996) *Studio Canal, France*

**Jizda** (The Ride) (1994) *Centrum ceskeho videa, Czech Republic*

**Konkurs** (1963) *Second Run, U.K.*

**Lisbon Story** (1994) *Atalanta Filmes, Portugal*

**A Matter of Life and Death** (1946) *Carlton, U.K.*

**Night on Earth** (1991) *AV Channel, Australia*

**Une partie de campagne** (1936) *British Film Institute, U.K.*

**Swallows and Amazons** (1974) *Optimum, U.K.*

**Until the End of the World** (1991) *Kinowelt, Germany*



## Better in Europe

*These are available here, but look better or have better extras (or are uncensored) in Europe:*

**Don't Look Now** (1973) *Optimum, U.K., 2-disc*

**Eyes Wide Shut** (1999) *Warner, Europe*

**The General** (1927) *Mk2, France*



**In the Mood for Love** (2000) *TF1 Video/Ocean Films, France*

**The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp** (1943) *Carlton, U.K.*

**Picnic at Hanging Rock** (1975) *Kinowelt, Germany*

**The Scent of Green Papaya** (1993) *Gaumont, France*

**The Stranger** (1946) *MGM, Europe*

**Walkabout** (1971) *MC-One, Germany*

**Whisky Galore!** (1949) *Optimum, U.K., 2-disc*

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## When to stick to Region 1

*Some DVD transfers of foreign films have been done better in North America. Here are some recent exemplary titles:*

**A Canterbury Tale** (1944) *Criterion*

**Go for Zucker** (2004) *First Run*

**The Shooting Party** (1985) *BBC America*

**Sophie Scholl** (2005) *Mongrel Media*

**The War Game** (1965) / **Culloden** (1964) *New Yorker Films*

## **Comparisons, reviews**

Internet Movie Database (*U.S.*) [imdb.com](http://imdb.com)

DVDBeaver (*Canada*) [www.dvdbeaver.com](http://www.dvdbeaver.com)

DVDCompare.net (*U.K.*)

DVD-Basen (*Denmark*) [www.dvdbasen.com](http://www.dvdbasen.com)

DVD Aficionado (*U.S.*) [dvdaficionado.com](http://dvdaficionado.com)

[www.DVD Journal](http://www.DVDJournal.com) (*U.S.*) [www.dvdjournal.com](http://www.dvdjournal.com)

DVD Times (*U.K.*) [www.dvdtimes.co.uk](http://www.dvdtimes.co.uk)

Rewind (*U.K.*) [therewindforums.co.uk/forums](http://therewindforums.co.uk/forums)

[WorldwideDVDforums.com](http://WorldwideDVDforums.com) (*U.K.*)

## **Prices:**

DVD PriceCheck (*U.K.-based, worldwide prices*) [www.dvdpricecheck.co.uk](http://www.dvdpricecheck.co.uk)

DVD Price Search (*U.S.*) [www.dvdpricesearch.com](http://www.dvdpricesearch.com)

DVDpascher.net (*France*)

DVD Classik (*France*) [www.dvdclassik.com](http://www.dvdclassik.com)

Total Solutions (*Belgium*) [www.tsc-dvd.be](http://www.tsc-dvd.be)

MontrealDVD (*Quebec*) [www.montrealdvd.com](http://www.montrealdvd.com)