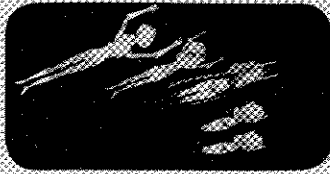
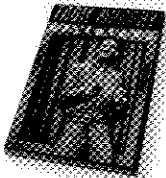




EDDIE MURPHY: DELIRIOUS

★★★★
 (Entertainment Studio) The only things louder and funnier than the skin-tight red leather suit that Eddie Murphy wore for his 1983 stand-up act are the jokes themselves. Before Murphy was an overweight professor, a veterinarian fluent in animal or a babysitter, he was one foul-mouthed motherfucker. It's great to watch Eddie in this first wave of his career (third wave: "I'm dramatic. Now give me an Oscar.") as he tackles family barbecues and secretly enjoying the smell of other people's farts, while running every impression through the Gayanizer '83. Coupled with the decidedly more infamous *Eddie Murphy Raw*, *Delirious* is a snapshot of life in the early-'80s—but one that we have trouble seeing through the tears of laughter. **BP**



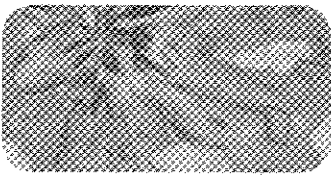
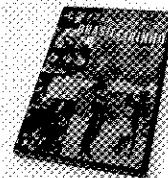
SUPERFICIAL FRIENDS

★★★
 (Heavy.com) Even if you could buy this DVD in the store—which we're pretty sure that you can't—its only point would be that hole burning in your pocket. It's not that these two-minute animated sequences are awful—the concept is pretty spot-on for parody—it's just that the shorts are, well, short—and free on the internet. The *Superficial Friends* are Penz Hilton's favorite punching bags: Lindsay Lohan, the *Osors*, Nicole Richie, and, of course, the blogger's namesake. These shallow starlets fight evil in the places that the rest of the world has forgotten while focused on Osama, Korea, Kimmy and Hugo. Instead, Steven Colbert, PETA and a crab-wielding Wilmer Valderrama are the bad guys. Bob Saget and buxom brie are both punching and superpower. POW! You guts an STD! BANG! **AP**



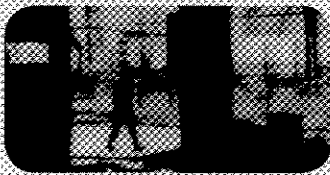
THE SOUND OF RIO: BRASILEIRINHO

★★★
 (Milan Records) Long before Brazil was popular for bossa nova and samba styles, there was choro. Created in the 19th century by musicians for the sheer pleasure of playing, choro is a mix of European and Afro-Brazilian sounds, and is also considered Brazil's original urban music. *Brasileirinho* illustrates the lives of many choro musicians throughout Rio de Janeiro, showcasing their stories and influences. It's quite charming to see a group of 20 or more people playing mandolins, guitars, horns and percussion instruments in sync, but completely improvising, and even more so when a session involves one musician's elderly mother on vocals. *Brasileirinho* should appeal to many world music fans, schooling you on the choro culture that seems to be the obsession of many in Brazil. **EP**



THE SCIENCE OF SLEEP

★★★★
 (Warner Independent) The best initiator of elbow, hipster sex since director Michel Gondry's last prick flick—ie, emotional films for the sensitive boys of the world—*Science of Sleep* made everyone take a closer look at the would-be homely next-door neighbor. Charlotte Gainsbourg's portrayal of the imagination-surplused Stéphanie is entirely crush-worthy, whatever sex or orientation you were born with. Gael García Bernal's turn as Stéphanie is simultaneously frustrating and charming, as his dreams take place in reality and his reality hazes over in dream. While *Science* is no *Eternal Sunshine*, Gondry is a master at coaching adventurous performances from his actors. More importantly, his latest feature film will help coach the pants off some art-school shawties. **AP**



OCTAVE ONE: OFF THE GRID

★★★
 (438 West) How to make a techno video interesting has long daunted directors, with men standing behind banks of equipment turning knobs not exactly having the same visual effect as a blazing guitar solo. Still, the Burden brothers give it a go, compiling footage from several live shows across the globe into one rather fierce DVD. Perhaps it's Lenny Burden's manic bouncing as he triggers samples or maybe it's just that *Octave One's* timeless take on Detroit techno has the power to keep you interested, even if the viewing amounts to little more than blue spotlights in a dark club. Bonus features like the group performing their 2002 hit "Blackwater" live at the Fuse-In festival actually lose something when performed in the midday sun. This despite having vocalist Ann Saunderson working it onstage. Some things are better left in the dark. **JB**



SHADOW COMPANY

★★★★★
 (Purpose Films) Modern-day warfare no longer rests solely on the shoulders of the government and its military might. If conflicts in Sierra Leone, Rwanda and Iraq have taught us anything, it's that "for hire" troops—modern day mercenaries or private security contractors—are not only commonplace, but can profoundly impact the outcome of these conflicts. *Shadow Company* is an unbiased look at these fighters from the private sector: Who are they, what do they really do and why do they do it? "Sadly, most documentaries are made with an agenda in mind, then the story spins toward the agenda," says Nick Bicanic, the film's co-director. "We had no agenda, so we just made a story. As I sometimes say, the truth has a nasty habit of not taking political sides." **RT**

