

From Noir to Now, Catalog of Hard-to-Find DVD Titles Makes Netflix a Must for Classic Film Buffs

By Mona Madry

Netflix customer Edward C. Arrington, Jr. is more than your average film buff. “As an independent film director, I’m constantly looking for classic films and films with quality acting,” Arrington explains. “Blockbuster took a long time to get DVDs *and* they’re mainstream only.”

A friend discovered Netflix online and referred Arrington, then a film student, to the service. He has been impressed with Netflix’s extensive catalog of titles since!

“It’s important for me to find DVDs,” Arrington says. “They give me access to the directors’ commentaries and the films’ storyboards.” As a director himself, Arrington loves DVDs because they carry these special features not found anywhere else. And, according to this Netflix fanatic, he finds titles online at Netflix not available at his local stores.

In fact, Arrington’s Netflix rental Queue is brimming with what he contends are hard-to-find DVD titles. He rattles off films ranging from screen classics “Rear Window” and “Dial ‘M’ for Murder” to David Lynch’s “Blue Velvet,” “The Magnificent Seven” by John Sturges, and Otto Preminger’s “Anatomy of a Murder.”

Arrington has been particularly surprised and pleased by Netflix’s selection of film noir classics. From Alfred Hitchcock and Orson Welles to Akira Kurosawa, he says Netflix stocks DVD titles he could not find *anywhere* else. “I even found ‘The Graduate’ which should be at the regular store but wasn’t,” he marvels.

“One thing I may not have mentioned, but should have, is that the Netflix Queue is awesome,” says Arrington. The Queue – or list of movies a customer has lined up to rent – can be added to, updated and rearranged at will.

After filling it with DVDs – “I have 157 movies in my Queue,” Arrington confesses – he can change the order.

Based on his own experiences, Arrington is a big supporter of the service. “I’ve been a member for over a year. I’ve recommended my cousins and my friends to Netflix,” he says. “People should check it out. You can rent DVDs [through Netflix] or you can try to rent elsewhere and they’re simply not there yet.”