

**5/ Birthday Girl** (Roadshow May)  
WHEN nice Pom Ben orders a Russian bride over the Internet, he's surprised to get Nicole Kidman with a dodgy accent. He's even more surprised when two more Russians (with better accents) knock on his door. The resulting chaos shows you're better off cultivating local talent. **IS ★★★**

**6/ Va Savoir** (Palace Films)  
VA SAVOIR is French for "who knows?", which is pretty accurate because who the hell knows what this is all about? I think it's got something to do with a play, like in the theatre and stuff, but the subtitles weren't that clear. The film is, as the French would say, *merde*. **PF ★**

**1/ Panic Room** (Sony)  
JODIE Foster pees, but try not to panic. A panic room is a small high-tech place where a person can hide when bad things happen. It's where Jodie and her daughter find themselves when thieves break in looking for millions of dollars – hidden in the panic room, of course. **PF ★★★**

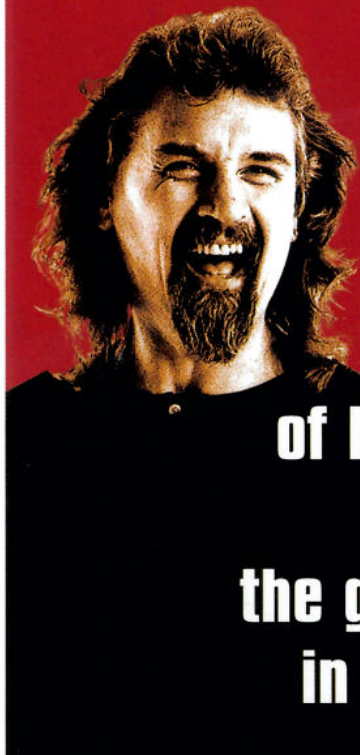
**12/ John Q** (Roadshow)  
OK, HERE'S what we do: take this flabby, two-hour, hospital-hostage "drama", chop it in half and turn it into a TV episode. Ditch the stars for some idiots who won't cost so much; shove a few ads in, and show it late to the insomniac crowd. You're happy. I'm happy. Nice to meet you. Bye. **IS ★★★**



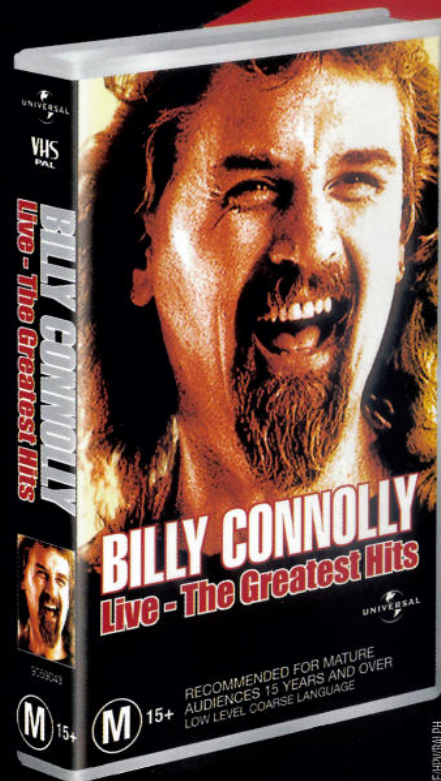
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