

# This DVD shouldn't be unrated

More often than not, additional material exchanges tight plots for tighter asses



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Commentary

At first, an unrated DVD sounds like such an adventure—it conjures images of forbidden delights, kept from the original theatrical movie by the foolish studio heads who are really all doily-crocheting grandmothers, hunkered down in yellow-wallpapered panic rooms to protect themselves from the evil encroachments of smut, profanity, and the gays. The reality, however, is irritating in the extreme.

One of the reasons why the unrated DVD is such a useless development in the home-movie industry is that the majority of films that receive this unnecessary treatment are already nearly unrated. Films like Judd Apatow's *The 40-Year-Old Virgin* and *Knocked Up* have never made any pretense that they're denying their eager audiences the pleasures of a jovial stream of expletive-loaded dialogue or the titillation of graphic boob-shots.

So it's not like the unrated DVD is giving viewers anything that wasn't in the movie before. Katherine Heigl's notorious fake vagina was included

in the original theatrical version of *Knocked Up*, so audiences haven't really been deprived of anything. A studio executive has never woken up in a cold sweat from a nightmare about viewers bewailing the disappointment of a movie-going experience that contained 16 fewer naked breasts than they were expecting. Amid the rapturously positive reviews of *Knocked Up* and *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*, I must have missed the negative ones that regarded the lack of vaginas as an egregious cinematic weakness.

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The so-called benefits of the unrated DVD are just gratuitous. We don't get the movie we loved in theatres. With examples like Apatow's raunchy films, we get movies we originally loved that are now

overburdened with scenes that weren't cut due to objectionable content, but because they made the movie too long, weren't as funny as the material that did make it into the theatrical version, or cluttered the narrative pace. So the extras we're essentially paying for with unrated DVDs are the less audacious breast shots, the not-quite-as-funny jokes, and the less important scenes.

I don't mind the unrated releases by themselves—if you're a fan and love seeing the extra material, that's all well and good. It's the fact that sometimes, they only release unrated versions. Especially in the case of Apatow's movies, the egregious flaw comes from the fact that we don't even get the option to purchase the theatrical versions—you know, the original version of the movie we enjoyed in the first place and recommended to all our friends. It shouldn't be that difficult to understand that we might actually want to purchase and keep the movie we originally saw—the movie that was the product of humour, heart, and careful editing.

Really, it's like going to pick up your long-distance boyfriend at the airport, only to find out he's gained 200 pounds since you last saw him—he's still the same boyfriend at heart, I guess, only now there's a bunch of bonus material you could easily do without that makes your experience that much less enjoyable.



SEEING PINK Avril performed at the Rexall last week, reminding fans of her favourite colour while playing the hits.

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