

Nonprint Materials

Some reviews in this section are written by staff editors, whose names also appear in the masthead; others are written by professional librarians and media specialists.

Video

When available, public performance information, as stated by distributor, is included for inexpensive video titles reviewed in this section.

Adrift. Producer and director: Mike Apsey. Meshkoff Studios, 5422 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa, FL 33611. 1990; released 1991. 23min. \$14.95 (home use). #DMP101.

Lost and found possessions—Fiction [BKLI]

A routine trip to the grocery store becomes an adventure when Mrs. Beasley, forgetting that she put Rooney, a much-loved teddy bear, on top of her car, drives away. While Jennifer silently searches for her bear, Rooney tumbles off the roof, onto a bridge, and into Tampa Bay.



In search of a missing teddy bear

Set adrift, Rooney sadly recalls Jennifer holding him in her arms and tucking him into bed. Meanwhile, Jennifer misses Rooney, too. Kids, following the action narrated solely by the woebegone teddy bear, will groan when circumstances almost bring the two friends together and cheer when they're finally reunited. Upbeat music and the universal experience of losing a favorite toy (along with natural performances by both child and bear) make this charming live-action film a winner. Ages 3–10. —Candace Smith

All Aboard: A Collection of Music Videos for Children. The Learning Station Entertainment Group, P.O. Box 1316, Melbourne, FL 32904. 1991. 30min. \$14.95 (pub. perf.). 782.42 Children's songs || Music videos [BKLI]

Dressed as railroad workers, a lively trio introduces songs that inform the audience while encouraging them to be silly and imaginative. Vocalists Don, Laurie, and Jan perform colorful production numbers, sometimes including a

well-coached cast of children who join in the songs, dances, and movements. To prepare viewers for a change in mood, the three entertainers offer cautionary messages about safety or, against a scenic backdrop, engage in some appealing mimicry. Including selections on making friends and doing exercises, the enthusiastic group conveys important feelings in a jovial manner. This has a somewhat more educational slant than IVE/FHE's *Song City* [BKLN 15 89]. Ages 4–7. —Nancy McCray

American Red Cross Emergency Test.

Producer: Rush/Winston Productions. Aylmer Press, 11 N. Spooner, #4, Madison, WI 53705. 1990. 48min. \$29.95 (pub. perf.).

Closed-captioned.

616'.025'2 First aid in illness and injury [BKLI]

First aid, safety, and emergency information is covered in this slickly produced program structured by a 20-question quiz. Television actor John Ritter warmly hosts the informative video, which also features numerous media personalities such as Don Johnson, Joan Lunden, and Betty White dispensing advice and presenting quiz questions. Short vignettes re-creating natural disasters, common accidents, and medical emergencies precede scenes detailing the correct first-aid response to each situation. This painless, quickly paced program teaches viewers how to correctly and safely handle crisis situations. Ages 14–adult. —Sue-Ellen Beauregard

The Committee: Taxation with Representation. Producer: WETA/York Associates. PBS Video, 1320 Braddock Pl., Alexandria, VA 22314. 1990. 59min. \$59.95 (pub. perf.). #ICTR000.

328.73'07412 United States || Congress || House, United States || Congress—Committees [BKLI]

Taxation is always unpopular, with or without representation. It has become the job of the U.S. Congress' powerful House Ways and Means Committee, because of its jurisdiction over taxes, tariffs, and the budget, to make the process palatable to the public. Framed by haggling over the first Bush administration budget, this well-constructed production uses reenactments, footage, stills, comments by committee movers and shakers, and a somewhat distancing voice-over to track this powerful committee from 1829 on. The chronicle cites key players (particularly Wilbur Mills and Dan Rostenkowski), social legislation (including the New Deal, the Social Security Act, and income tax), the influences of

presidents (especially FDR and LBJ), and historical events (including wars and the Depression). Economics and political science students will benefit from this informative program. Gr. 9–12. —Candace Smith

Composting: A Recipe for Success.

Producer: Compost Productions. International Marketing Exchange, Dept. ALA, P.O. Box 775, McHenry, IL 60051. 1990. 21min., guide. \$14.95 (home use).

631.8'75 Compost [BKLI]

Knowledgeable gardener Cort Sinnes hosts this introduction to composting that includes a surefire "recipe" for creating odorless compost. After briefly discussing the decomposition process and commercially available composting bins, Sinnes introduces the correct procedures for turning garden waste into rich, nutrient-laden loam. A sturdy, attractive yard structure that includes areas for gardening, composting, and storing recyclable materials is also featured in this simply produced, informative video, which takes the mystery out of an environmentally beneficial process that helps reduce crowded landfills. Adult. —Sue-Ellen Beauregard

The Dancing Skeleton. Producer and director: Rosemary Killen. American School Publishers, P.O. Box 4520, Chicago, IL 60680. 1991; released 1990. 8:30min., guide. \$39.

(0-07-002682-3). 398.2 Folk literature [BKLI]

Aaron Kelly was so cantankerous that after he was dead and buried, he got right up and returned to his home to sit in a rocking chair next to his stunned widow. In fact, he was so ornery that when his body turned into a skeleton and his bones began shattering while he danced wildly to a fiddler's tunes, he still refused to return to the grave. Finally, Aaron's widow carefully placed the broken bones into the

Blackbird Fly. Producer: Firstborn Productions. MTI Film & Video, 108 Wilmot Rd., Deerfield, IL 60015. 1990. 27:18min., guide. \$375. Rental, \$75. #6543M.

Incest—Drama || Child molesting—Drama [BKLI]

Talented actors Whoopi Goldberg, Garrett Morris, Esther Rolle, and newcomer Rain Pryor are featured in this modern drama. Teenager Carin Jordan is a gifted musician who lives with her overprotective, demanding widowed father. As the rather slowly paced program progresses, it is apparent that something is troubling Carin. In a dimly lit, climactic scene, Carin's father slips into bed with his daughter. The following morning, Carin confesses to her piano teacher that her father has been sexually abusing her for years. After a dramatic confrontation between teacher and parent, the widower is seen seeking counseling. The bedroom scene is so tastefully handled that most viewers will not realize what has occurred until Carin confides in her teacher. Although the film strikes an unrealistic note when it appears that no criminal charges are filed against Mr. Jordan, this is, nevertheless, a finely acted drama with limitless discussion potential. Ages 12–17. —Sue-Ellen Beauregard