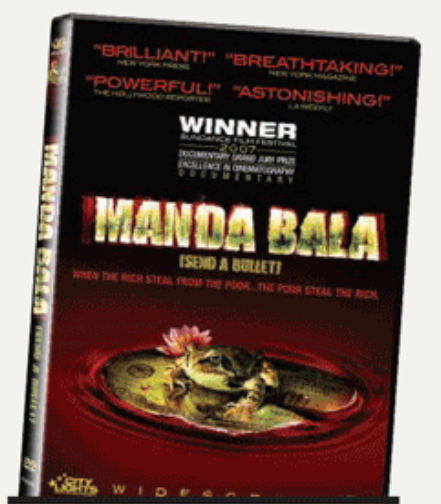


Home Media

MAGAZINE

BRINGING DIGITAL ENTERTAINMENT TO YOU



■ MANDA BALA (SEND A BULLET)

Prebook 3/11; Street 4/8

City Lights, Documentary, B.O. \$0.1 million,
\$26.98 DVD, NR.

Jason Kohn's award-winning, acclaimed documentary on the cycle of political corruption and crime in modern-day Brazil is one of the rare films worthy of its advance praise.

His unflinching and illuminating film profiles the heroes, villains, victims and businessmen who are at the heart of this tug-of-war. Among those profiled: powerful politician Jäder Barbalho who, despite stealing millions of dollars meant to help the impoverished Amazon, is practically untouchable; a kidnapping victim who describes having her ears cut off, a common practice; a surprisingly humane plastic surgeon who

makes a fortune creating new ears for victims; and a kidnapper who doesn't do it for a windfall, but so he and his family can survive in the slums.

What emerges from the interviews is that a small, very dedicated group of people help to keep the situation in check (such as it is), and that there is little glamour in being a criminal or a crusader for justice. Either way, it's grueling. Frightening questions also arise. From where is the next generation of gritty, overworked cops and dogged, unflappable prosecutors coming? Will the financial rewards of crime and the manipulative power of politics attract more people than it repels?

Fans of substantive, comfort-challenging documentaries such as *Capturing the Friedmans* and *Bowling for Columbine* will hold *Manda Bala* dear to their DVD collections. Those with weak stomachs, please note: The film contains some graphic violence, and is not for the squeamish.

The DVD includes director's commentary, exclusive featurettes and Spanish subtitles.

— Pete Croatto

■ CITY LIGHTS HOME ENTERTAINMENT

April 8 releases *Manda Bala (Send a Bullet)* (DVD \$26.98), which explores the social and political impact of economic inequality (see review, page 26). The film takes a look at political corruption, kidnapping and the plastic surgery industry that threaten Brazil with fear and violence. The film won the 2007 Sundance Film Festival Grand Jury Prize for best documentary feature. The film also won an Hdi grant award worth \$100,000 from Microsoft to author the film in high-definition and to develop immersive interactive experiences.

