

## TAKE IT HOME ON DVD

### 'Walk the Line'

Johnny and June return just in time for their big night at the Academy Awards.

Joaquin Phoenix as country legend Johnny Cash and Reese Witherspoon as his one true love, June Carter, earned Oscar nominations for director James Mangold's portrait of Cash's roots, his early musical success, his drug battle and the long courtship he shared with Carter.

The film comes in a single-disc or two-disc edition, both with 10 deleted scenes, accompanied by commentary from Mangold.

The two-disc set also has three extended song performances by Phoenix and Witherspoon, plus featurettes on Cash's career, his romance with Carter and the making of the film.

Also new to DVD is "The Gospel Road," Cash and Carter's 1973 musical testament to Jesus Christ.

### 'Yours, Mine & Ours'

Dennis Quaid and Rene Russo star in this dopey update of the Lucille Ball-Henry Fonda comedy about a woman with 10 children and a man with eight kids who get hitched, the union producing 90 minutes of lame slapstick as two very different styles of parenting and 18 mutinous offspring fail to click.

The DVD has deleted footage with commentary by director Raja Gosnell, who also offers commentary for the full movie.

Other DVD extras include six featurettes examining the movie's casting and script, the lighthouse setting where the family takes up residence and the production's collaboration with the U.S. Coast Guard, for whom Quaid's character works.

### 'Pride & Prejudice'

Also arriving in time for your pre-Oscar perusal is director Joe Wright's excellent adaptation of Jane Austen's romantic classic about relations between 18th century Britain's haves and have-nots.

Keira Knightley earned a best-actress nomination as Austen's free-thinking heroine, one of a family of impoverished sisters whose mother schemes to marry them for money, not love.

DVD featurettes include a glimpse of the modern sensibilities Austen set forth in her fiction nearly two centuries ago.

The disc also offers a look at the colorful family at the center of the story and a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the film's grand dance ball, along with commentary from Wright.

### 'Lady and the Tramp'

Has it really been half a century since a mutt and a prissy pooch kissed over a shared strand of spaghetti?

Walt Disney's animated charmer returns to DVD in a 50th anniversary edition of one of Hollywood's most endearing screen romances, between a rascally canine and his uptown girl, a pampered, pedigreed cocker spaniel.

The two-disc set offers storyboard reconstructions of two deleted scenes, including a fantasy sequence in which dogs rule, dragging their puny human pets around on leashes.

The set also has a terrific documentary tracing the long development of the 1955 film, whose original concepts date back to the late '30s.

# Country singer recalls precious memories

## Alan Jackson's Christmas gift to his mother becomes album

By JOHN GEROME  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn.

Alan Jackson's mother had been after him for 10 years to make a gospel record.

Last year, when the country superstar's father-in-law died, he recorded "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" for the funeral.

Then the whole family got after him, too.

So he went to work.

Jackson and his wife, Denise, went through an old Baptist hymnal they had in the house, choosing the songs they remembered and liked best growing up in Newnan, Ga.

They narrowed it down to 30 and then to 15.

The result, his new CD, *Precious Memories*, hit stores Tuesday.

He could have dug up some obscure hymns for his new gospel album, or he could have jazzed up the old songs with fresh arrangements or given them a blues spin.

But he didn't do any of that. He recorded standards like "How Great Thou Art" and "Blessed Assurance" as a Christmas gift to his mother and kept them as simple and pure as he remembered them.

"I wanted to make them feel like they did when we sang them in church," Jackson said.

Jackson, who has sold more than 44 million albums since his 1989 debut, performed all of *Precious Memories* recently at the 113-year-old Ryman Auditorium, a former gospel tabernacle and home to the Grand Ole Opry radio show from 1943 to 1974.

The Ryman's stained-glass windows glowed as Jackson, accompanied by a four-piece band and two harmony singers, converted the hall into a church revival with fans singing and clapping in the wooden pews.

While recording the songs, Jackson never intended for anyone but his family and friends to hear them, and had made up 100 CDs as Christmas gifts.

His wife and two of their daughters sang on one song "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus," and Jackson shot the photo of the country church on the cover.

RCA Label Group Chairman Joe Galante heard the recordings and liked how intimate and emotional they sounded.

It didn't hurt either that Brad Paisley — Jackson's label mate on Arista Nashville — had a huge hit with "When I Get Where I'm Going," a spiritual song that would fit next to any of these hymns.

"People seem to have a hunger for those things that not only reinforce their faith but give them hope. Certainly, this record has that feeling to it," Galante said.

While Jackson didn't have reserva-



Alan Jackson performs songs from his new gospel album, *Precious Memories*, in Nashville, Tenn. Jackson recorded some gospel songs as a Christmas gift to his mother, Ruth. RCA figured Jackson's fans would like the recording, too.

tions about putting out such a personal record, he did worry that fans might get the wrong impression about his musical direction.

It's one thing for a country singer past his prime to cut a gospel record, and another for a contemporary star like Jackson to do it.

"In the past I've seen artists in the country field who've decided they want to be a little more active in Christian and gospel music, and there's nothing wrong with that," said Jackson, who is finishing up a

mainstream album for release later this year.

"But I thought if I'm going to be a mainstream country act I don't want people to get confused and think I'm not doing country music anymore," he said.

Jackson, whose sound is rooted in the old-school country of his musical heroes George Jones, Merle Haggard and Hank Williams, writes most of his own songs.

In 2002 he won a Grammy for "Where Were You (When the World

Stopped Turning)," a touching rumination on the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Like many country singers, his early exposure to music came in church. He sang in the choir and was drawn to the sound of the pipe organ.

Today, at 47, he worships in a church where most of the music is contemporary Christian. His daughters like the modern style, but he said he still misses the old hymns sometimes.

RCA is hoping his fans do, too.

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