# Avoiding unauthorized versions of movies and television on DVD

HEATHER CAMPBELL AND KAREN CLEMENTS MARCH 19, 2025

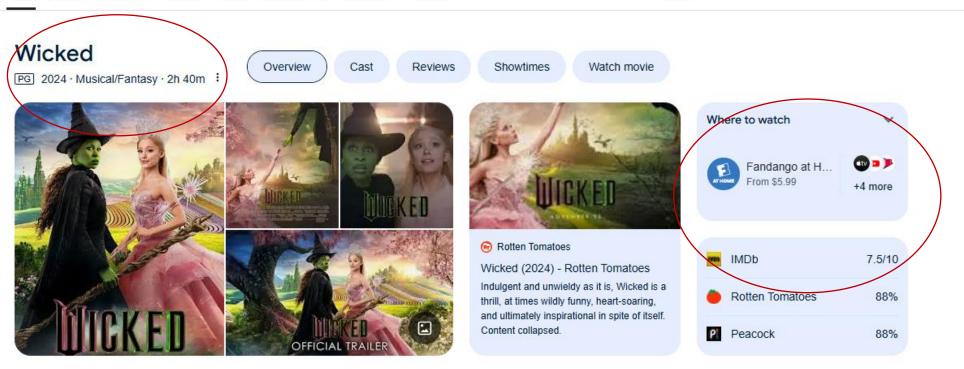






Tools

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### Cast >













Jeff Goldblum The Wizard

### Watch movie



E Watch now

From \$5.99

Already watched

Want to watch

Overview

Glinda

Ariana Grande Cynthia Erivo Elphaba

Bailey

Prince Fivero

Ethan Slater

Bog

Michelle Yeoh Madame Morrible

### Wikipedia --Release section Wicked (2024 film)

### Home media

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- Plot
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  - Censorship
  - Localization
  - Home media
- > Reception
- Cultural impact and legacy
  - Accolades
  - Sequel
  - See also

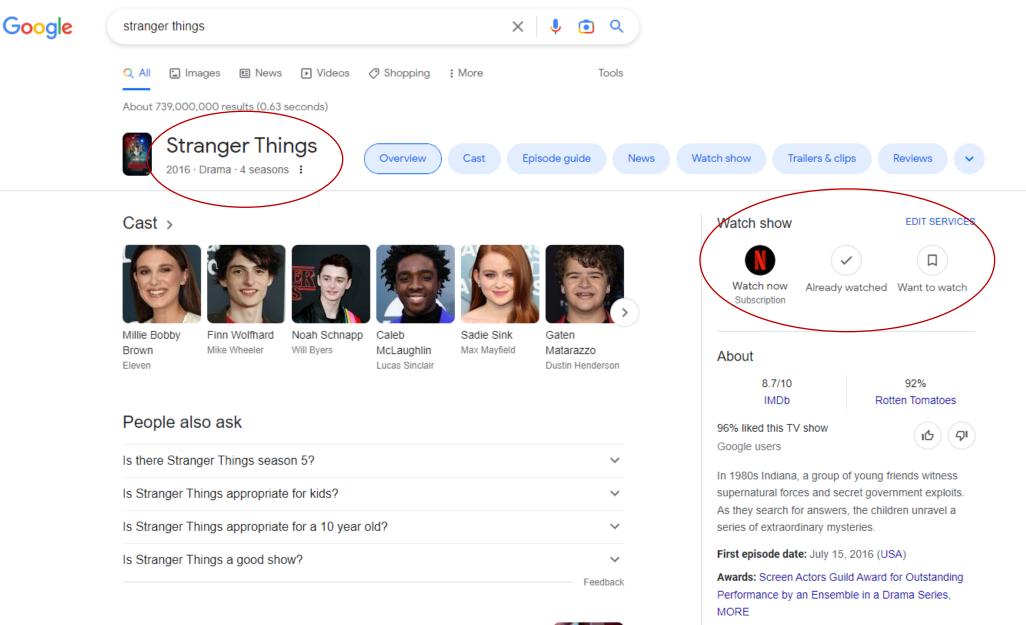
The film was released on video on demand on December 31, 2024 in the United States.<sup>[222]</sup> It was released on 4K Blu-ray, Blu-Ray, and DVD on February 4, 2025 by Universal Pictures Home Entertainment. Both the digital and physical releases contain the theatrical and sing-along versions of the film along with bonus features such as extended and deleted scenes and behind-the-scenes featurettes.<sup>[223][224]</sup> The film will be released on Peacock on March 21, 2025.<sup>[225]</sup>

### Box office

Reception

### Pre-release

Tickets for *Wicked* went on sale on October 9, 2024, the day after Paramount Pictures released their tickets for *Gladiator II*. On October 10, Fandango reported that the film became the site's number 2 first-day ticket pre-seller of 2024, behind Marvel Studios' *Deadpool & Wolverine*, as well as the best PG-rated first-day ticket pre-seller of the year and the number 3 best PG-rated first-day ticket pre-seller of all time, behind *Frozen 2* and the 2019 remake of *The Lion King* (both from Disney).<sup>[226]</sup> According to *Deadline Hollywood*, Quorum projected *Wicked* to gross \$67–74 million in its domestic opening weekend, while *Box Office Theory* projected it would gross \$96–150 million and *Boxoffice Pro* projected it would be \$100–125 million, topping the box office ahead of *Gladiator II*. Initial skepticism was directed towards the notion that musical films post-pandemic would not be profitable.<sup>[227][228][229]</sup> By the week of its release, projections were raised to a \$165–200 million worldwide opening (and \$125–150 million domestically), with positive word-of-mouth and the film's awards season buzz cited as the reasons.<sup>[230]</sup>



Writers: Matt Duffer, Ross Duffer, Jessie Nickson-

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### Wikipedia --Release section Stranger Things

Contents [hide]

(Top) Overview

Cast and characters



References External links

### Release

The first season consisted of eight one-hour-long episodes which were released worldwide on Netflix on July 15, 2016,<sup>[82]</sup> in Ultra HD 4K. The second season, consisting of nine episodes, was released on October 27, 2017, in HDR.<sup>[83][84]</sup> The third season once again consists of eight episodes,<sup>[85]</sup> and was released on July 4, 2019.<sup>[86]</sup> The fourth season, consisting of nine episodes, was released in two volumes on May 27 and July 1, 2022, respectively.<sup>[87][88][89]</sup> In February 2022, Netflix renewed the series for a fifth and final season.<sup>[90]</sup>

Shortly after the fourth season's release, viewers reported that Will's friends did not acknowledge his birthday in an episode of the season that took place on that day. The Duffers said in an interview that they could rectify the matter by changing its month, which they called "George Lucas-ing the situation", in reference to the canon changes that George Lucas had made to the original *Star Wars* trilogy to match what the prequel trilogy had added..<sup>[91]</sup> Some viewers took this to imply that scenes from earlier seasons were also being edited, including one scene where Jonathan takes discreet pictures of a pool party that Steve, Nancy, and Barbara are holding. The writers stated that "no scenes from previous seasons have ever been cut or re-edited", including this scene.<sup>[91]</sup>

### Home media

The first season of *Stranger Things* was released on a Blu-ray/DVD combo pack exclusively to Target retailers on October 17, 2017, and the same for the 4K/Blu-ray combo pack on November 15, 2017, both of which includes vintage CBS-FOX VHS-inspired packaging.<sup>[92][93]</sup> The second season received a similar release on November 6, 2018.<sup>[94][95]</sup>

### Reception

### Audience viewership

Netflix did not initially reveal subscriber viewership numbers for their original series, and Symphony Technology Group compiled data for the season based on people using software on their phones that measures television viewing by detecting a program's sound. According to Symphony, within the first 35 days of release, *Stranger Things* averaged ratings of around 14.07 million adults between the ages of 18–49 in the United States. This made it the third most-watched season of Netflix original content in the U.S. at the time behind the first season of *Fuller House* and fourth season of *Orange Is the New Black*.<sup>[96]</sup> In a September 2016 analysis, Netflix found that *Stranger Things* "hooked" viewers by the second episode of the first season, indicating that the second episode was "the first installment that led at least 70 percent of viewers who watched that episode to complete the entire first season of a show."<sup>[97]</sup>

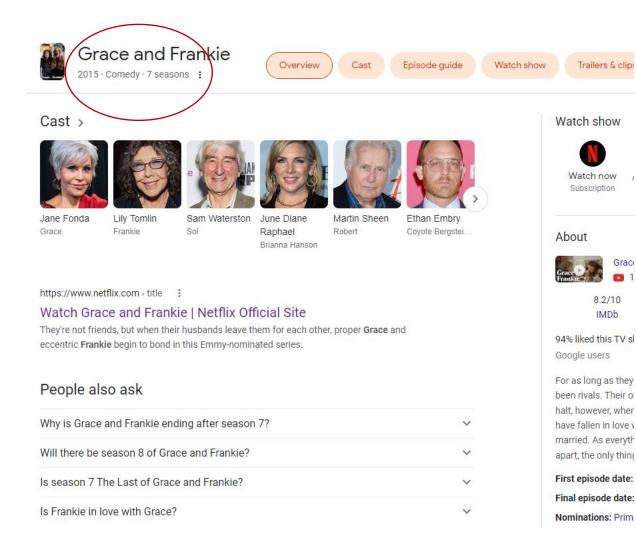
For the third season, Netflix revealed that the show had broken viewing records for Netflix, with 40.7 million households having watched the show in its first four days, and 18.2 million already.



Winona Ryder (left) was nominated for Golden Globe Award, Satellite Award and Screen Actors Guild Award, while Millie Bobby Brown (right) was nominated for two Screen Actors Guild Awards in the same category and two Primetime Emmy Awards.

No mention of Seasons 3 or 4 because they have not been officially released

### Our first deep dive into unauthorized DVDs—Grace and Frankie



### Home media [edit]

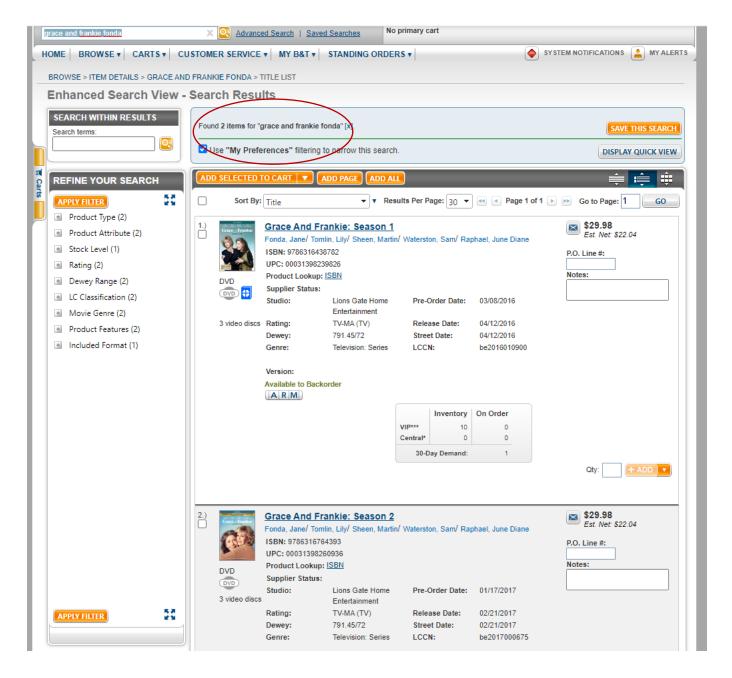
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nue	Region 1	Region 2	Region 4						
Season One	April 12, 2016 <sup>[56]</sup>	April 18, 2016 <sup>[57]</sup>	November 1, 2017 <sup>[58]</sup>						
Season Two	February 21, 2017 <sup>[59]</sup>	May 15, 2017 <sup>[60]</sup>	November 1, 2017 <sup>[61]</sup>						

# No mention of seasons 3-7—these have never been released

# Gracie and Frankie Searching by UPC in the Client

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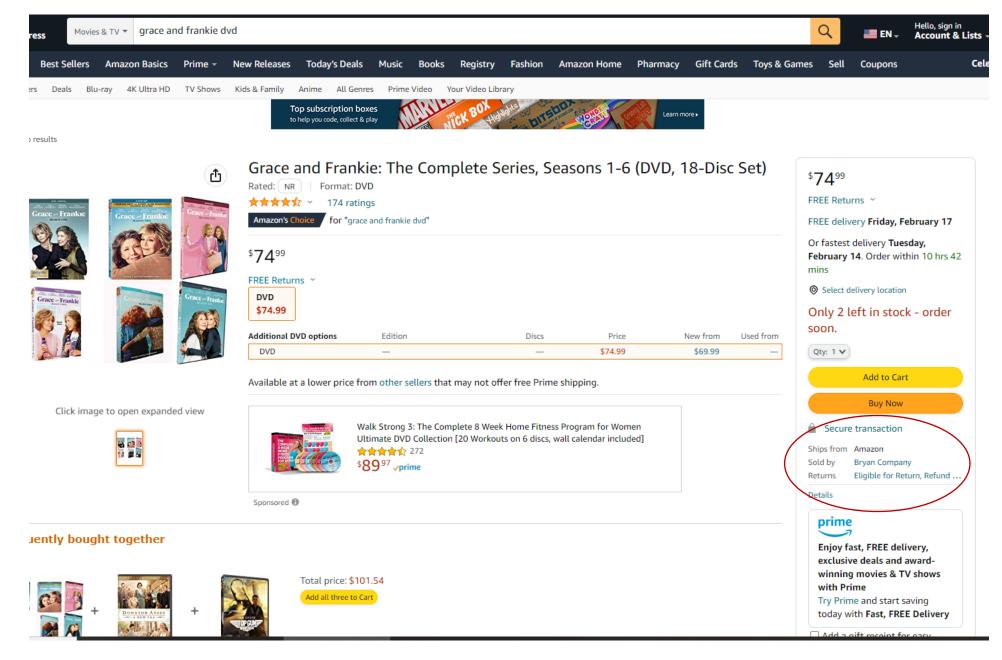
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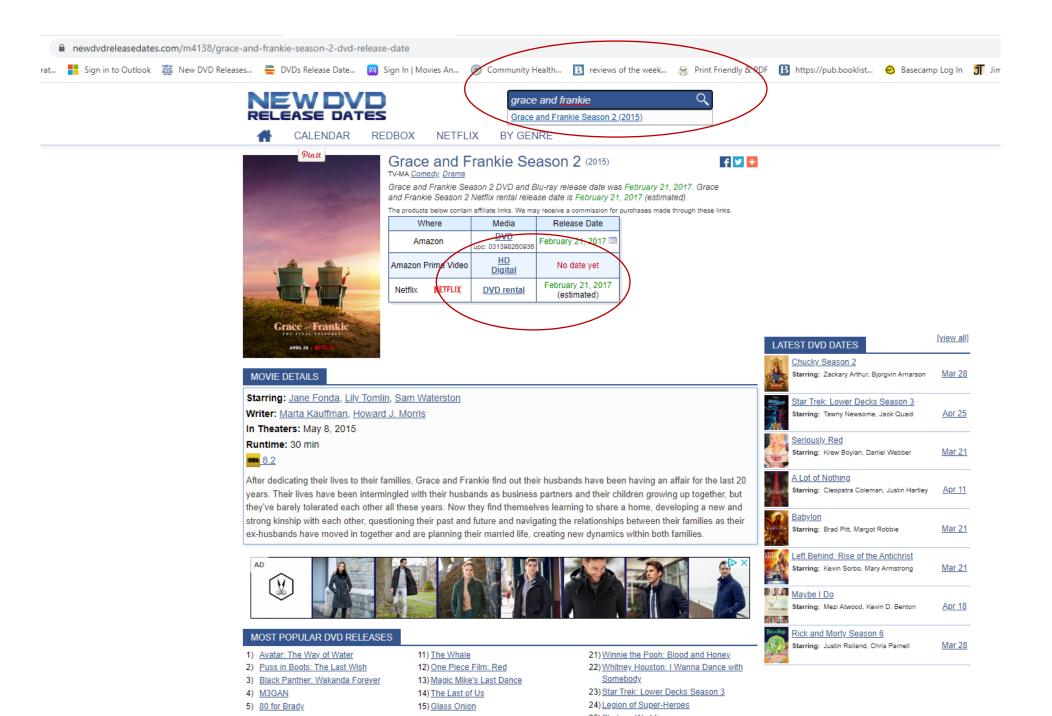


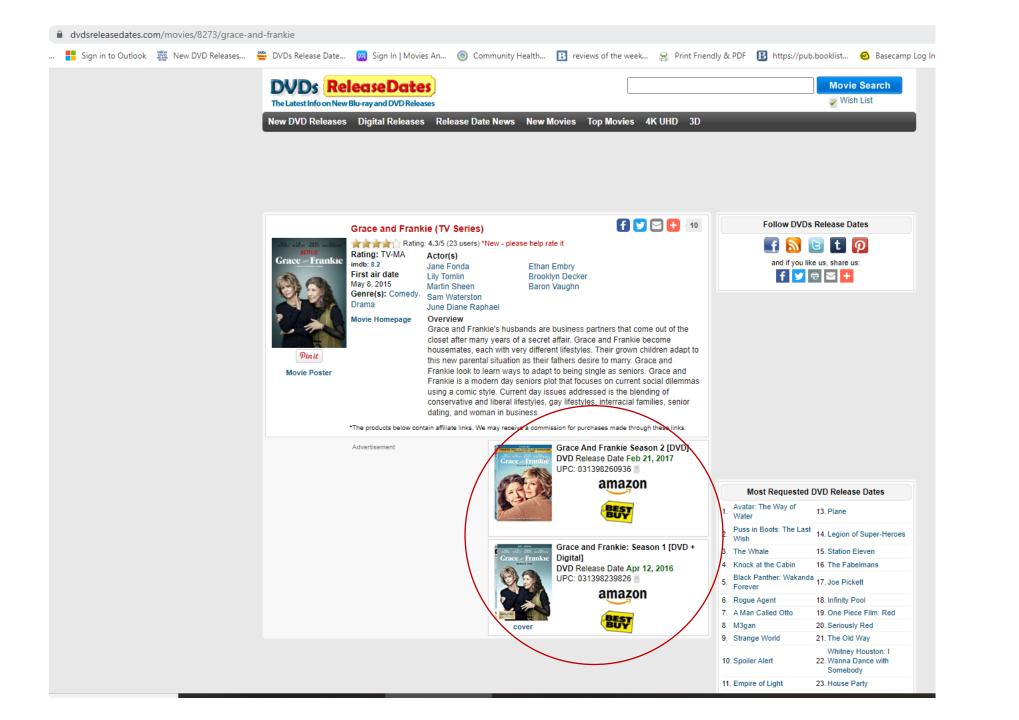
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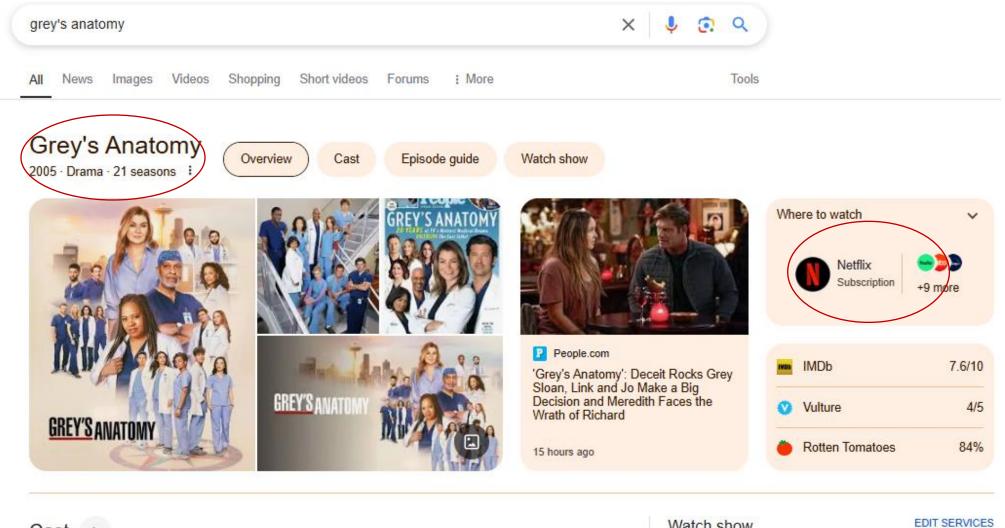
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ving >	Video: DVD	11793254	Physical	031398260936	968133274	9334		2017	02/21/17	\$29.99	\$22.49	F

### Amazon sells everything—including counterfeits. Buyer beware!









### Cast >



Ellen Pompeo Meredith Grey



Patrick

Dempsey

Dr. Derek Charland

Chandra Wilson Miranda Bailey

Justin Chambers

Alex Karev

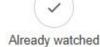


Sandra Oh Katherine Heigl Dr. Cristina Yang Izzie Stevens



### Watch show









Overview

Cancer	Eningdag	DVD release dates										
Season	Episodes	Region 1	Region 2	Region 4	Discs							
1	9	February 14, 2006 <sup>[249]</sup>	July 10, 2006 <sup>[250]</sup>	April 26, 2006 <sup>[251]</sup>	2							
2	27	September 12, 2006 <sup>[252]</sup>	May 28, 2007 <sup>[253]</sup>	January 10, 2007 <sup>[254]</sup>	6							
3	25	September 11, 2007 <sup>[255]</sup>	September 15, 2008 <sup>[256]</sup>	October 31, 2007 <sup>[257]</sup>	7							
4	17	September 9, 2008 <sup>[258]</sup>	November 23, 2009 <sup>[259]</sup>	November 5, 2008 <sup>[260]</sup>	5							
5	24	September 15, 2009 <sup>[261]</sup>	August 23, 2010 <sup>[262]</sup>	November 4, 2009 <sup>[263]</sup>	7							
6	24	September 14, 2010 <sup>[264]</sup>	December 5, 2011 <sup>[265]</sup>	November 3, 2010 <sup>[266]</sup>	6							
7	22	September 13, 2011 <sup>[267]</sup>	May 28, 2012 <sup>[268]</sup>	November 2, 2011 <sup>[269]</sup>	6							
8	24	September 4, 2012 <sup>[270]</sup>	December 3, 2012 <sup>[271]</sup>	October 17, 2012 <sup>[272]</sup>	6							
9	24	August 27, 2013 <sup>[273]</sup>	November 4, 2013 <sup>[274]</sup>	October 2, 2013 <sup>[275]</sup>	6							
10	24	September 2, 2014 <sup>[276]</sup>	November 3, 2014 <sup>[277]</sup>	October 8, 2014 <sup>[278]</sup>	6							
11	25	August 18, 2015 <sup>[279]</sup>	October 5, 2015 <sup>[280]</sup>	October 7, 2015 <sup>[278]</sup>	6							
12	24	August 30, 2016 <sup>[281]</sup>	October 3, 2016 <sup>[282]</sup>	November 2, 2016 <sup>[283]</sup>	6							
13	24	August 29, 2017 <sup>[284]</sup>	October 23, 2017 <sup>[285]</sup>	November 8, 2017 <sup>[286]</sup>	6							
14	24		October 22, 2018 <sup>[287]</sup>		6							
15	25		November 25, 2019 <sup>[288]</sup>		7							
16	21		November 30, 2020 <sup>[289]</sup>		5							
17	17		November 8, 2021 <sup>[290]</sup>		5							
18	20		November 21, 2022 <sup>[291]</sup>		6							
19	20		November 8, 2023		6							

Why patrons (and selectors!) are frustrated

Wikipedia info on Grey's Anatomy



Example of poorly labeled product sold by third party on Amazon

Note first disc in middle row states "SEA ONE"



Image source: https://www.amazon.com.au/Stranger-Things-DVD-Seasons-1-4/dp/B0B8GMMZ7C

# How do I spot a counterfeit if I already have the item?



### EBAY FAKES! How To Spot Counterfeit DVDs



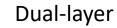
### 17K views 2 years ago

Scam alert! Many physical media sellers on eBay are offering counterfeit DVDs. You may have even purchased one without knowing! In this episode, we'll discuss how to spot a fake, what you can do to avoid being the victim of scammers! ...more

Source: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ukNz9s1cjE</u>

Authentic DVDs are dual-layer discs. When you look at the underside of the disc, near the center, there should be two barcodes and item numbers—one for each layer.

Unauthorized discs are usually single layer discs with only one barcode and item number. Single layer DVDs have poor image quality compared to dual-layer.



Single-layer

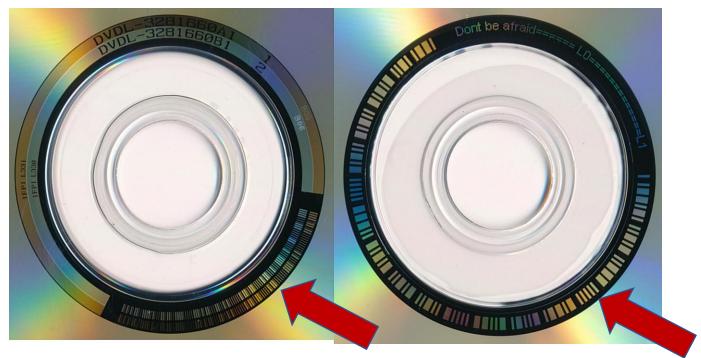


Image source: <a href="https://www.spookcentral.tk/tcp/2019/06/25/counterfeit-bootleg-dvd-box-sets">https://www.spookcentral.tk/tcp/2019/06/25/counterfeit-bootleg-dvd-box-sets</a>

Authentic DVDs/Blu-rays from the United States often have an FBI anti-piracy warning during the presentation.

If there is doubt, catalogers can play the disc to ensure this warning is present.



Source: https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/business/business-news/fbi-anti-piracy-warnings-over-time-pictures-322495/

# • The arrival of multiple streaming platforms and then the pandemic changed how we engage with home entertainment, and we still feel the effects

- Some films are released only to DVD or Blu-ray and not both
- Some television series are being released exclusively to 4K format (new in the past 6 months)
- Some production studios decide not to release something after listing it with our vendors
- Streaming platforms may release some content to home media but not others (examples)

Tech services staff can help look out for bootlegs. Some things to check for:

- Flimsy case
- DVD seal on case inside plastic shrink wrap
- Duplicate UPC, or no results when searching UPC
- Lack of records in CCS, WorldCat
- Poor quality labels
- Poor image quality when viewed
- Should include FBI anti-piracy warning when viewed

Thank you!

Questions? Feel free to reach out!

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Kit Moore <a href="mailto:kmoore@crystallakelibrary.org">kmoore@crystallakelibrary.org</a>

