

*The Wolfe Pack
The Nero Wolfe
Literary Society*

A NERO WOLFE MYSTERY

Nero Wolfe: The Complete First Season

3 vols. 10 hrs. DVD ISBN 0-7670-5499-7. \$59.95

The Reviews

Nero Wolfe: The Complete Second Season

5 vols. 15 hrs. DVD ISBN 0-7670-5508-X. \$99.95.

ea. vol: color. A&E Television Networks, 800-423-1212;ShopAETV.com. 2004

LIBRARY JOURNAL | MICHAEL ROGERS | DECEMBER 2004

A&E's tragically short-lived detective series makes its much-welcomed DVD debut. The First Season boxed set offers *The Doorbell Rang*, *Champagne for One*, *Prisoner's Base 1 & 2*, *Eeny Meeny Murder Moe*, *Disguise for Murder*, *Door to Death*, *Christmas Party*, and *Over My Dead Body*. The Second Season features *Death of a Doxy*, *Murder Is Corny*, *Too Many Clients*, and *Cop Killer*, plus extras, including *The Golden Spiders*, a two-hour feature that aired before the show was officially scheduled, a "Making of" featurette, and an especially nice bonus program, *The Silent Speaker*, presented in letterbox. The production quality here is top shelf, and every element, from the cars and wardrobe to jazzy soundtrack and locations, is dead on. The scripts have been carefully and faithfully adapted to retain the all-important atmosphere of Rex Stout's original works. What really makes the series superior, however, is the ensemble cast led by Maury Chaykin as Wolfe; Timothy Hutton as Wolfe's right hand, Archie Goodwin; Colin Fox and butler/chef Fritz; and Bill Smitrovich as the bull-necked cigar-chomping Inspector Cramer. There is especially strong chemistry between Hutton and Chaykin, who epitomizes the rotund, beer-swilling sleuth with appropriate magisterial indignation and eccentricity. Hutton thoroughly embodies tough lady-killer Goodwin. A&E's *Nero Wolfe* is so good, it's criminal. Highly recommended.