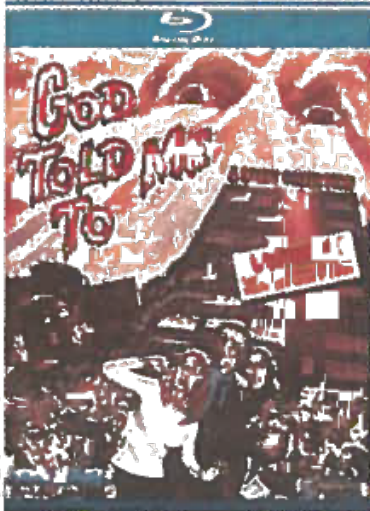


DVD PICK OF THE WEEK: **GOD TOLD ME TO** (Blue Underground)



Iconic cult *auteur* Larry Cohen's 1976 shocker (also released as *Demon*) is one of his most fascinating films, alternately creepy, bizarre, thought-provoking and ragged around the edges – a true original.

An excellent Tony Lo Bianco plays Peter Nicholas, a police detective investigating a rash of violent murders in New York City in which each perpetrator claims "God told me to." The deeply religious, deeply troubled Nicholas becomes obsessed with the crimes, leading him down a hellish path that forces him to confront his own beliefs – and his very existence.

The film, whose star-studded cast includes Sandy Dennis, Deborah Raffin, Sam Levene, Mike Kellin, Robert Drivas, Richard Lynch and Andy Kaufman (in his film debut), captures an aura of decay, moral rot and doom, echoing the fear of religious cults and prefiguring the fear of serial killers (less than a year after the film's release, New York City was rocked by Son of Sam), while combining Christian theology with alien theory. *God Told Me To* is certainly novel in its concept, to say nothing of its execution.

The new Blu-ray retails for \$29.95 and includes audio commentary, retrospective interviews and more. ★★★★★