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Division 5's
Sergio
Rubalcava has
amassed one
of the largest
collections of
DVD movies
in the
country.
Photo: Rich
Morallo

Home Theater:

DVD Collector Sergio Rubalcava has 3,000 Movies

- May be one of nation's largest private collections

By RICH MORALLO

(Feb. 10, 2005) Sergio Rubalcava has his hands full at work. As the assistant maintenance manager at Arthur Winston Division 5, there are more than 200 buses to get out on the street, 135 mechanics and service attendants to supervise, and daily maintenance challenges to hurdle.

"There is always a maintenance repair, like a broken water pump or malfunctioning fan belt to follow up on," says Rubalcava.

Then at home, Rubalcava has his hands full of DVDs – 3,000 of them. It may be one of the largest personal collections in the country, according to a home entertainment magazine that interviewed him about his DVDs.

"My collection of DVDs helps me unwind after a busy day at Metro," says Rubalcava, whose favorites include "Lawrence of Arabia," "Modern Times," "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" and "Citizen Kane."

Variety of films

The 22-year Metro manager started his collection in 1997. Through the years, he has amassed all types of DVD movies including drama, silent films, documentaries, foreign movies with subtitles, action and animation.

"The first DVDs I bought eight years ago were "Twister" and "Bonnie

and Clyde," Rubalcava recalls.

He adds to his DVD library every week by purchasing new titles from retail electronics stores and the Internet.

Rubalcava also procured special cabinets to shelve his collection, and uses a top-of-the-line audio system and a 65-inch giant screen television for viewing.

Favorite is Charlie Chaplin

Movie directors such as Alfred Hitchcock and Sergio Leone have a special place in Rubalcava's heart, but his favorite is Charlie Chaplin.

"A true genius," says Rubalcava, as he describes how Chaplin wrote, directed and produced his own movies.

Along with amassing DVDs, Rubalcava has also gathered several original movie posters.

"I have about 35 posters, the biggest one, 'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly,' is about 4-1/2 by 6 feet," he says. "I also collect signed baseballs. I have about 450 baseballs and other collectibles, including a signed letter from the last pitcher who struck out Babe Ruth."

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