

KONFLIKT IN THE KING

Issue 11

WHEN PICTURES AND SOUND COLLIDE THERE ARE FATALITIES

More Trailers than a Trailer Park!

Jeff Joseph and his trailers – All 60,000 of ‘em!

As this year is the 103rd anniversary of the motion or “moving” picture, those with a gusto for the medium may occasionally find themselves daydreaming – wanting to turn back the clocks and tell our cinematic fathers to not forget in helping preserve our cinematic heritage. Who would have thought 103 years ago we would have video? DVD? Fringe and niche markets?

Film trailers, those little “short movies” used to lure others into the cinema (from as early as the Twenties) often got thrown in the trashcan by the time the film played the theatre. If the film was playing in the theatre that week, why save it? Who cared?

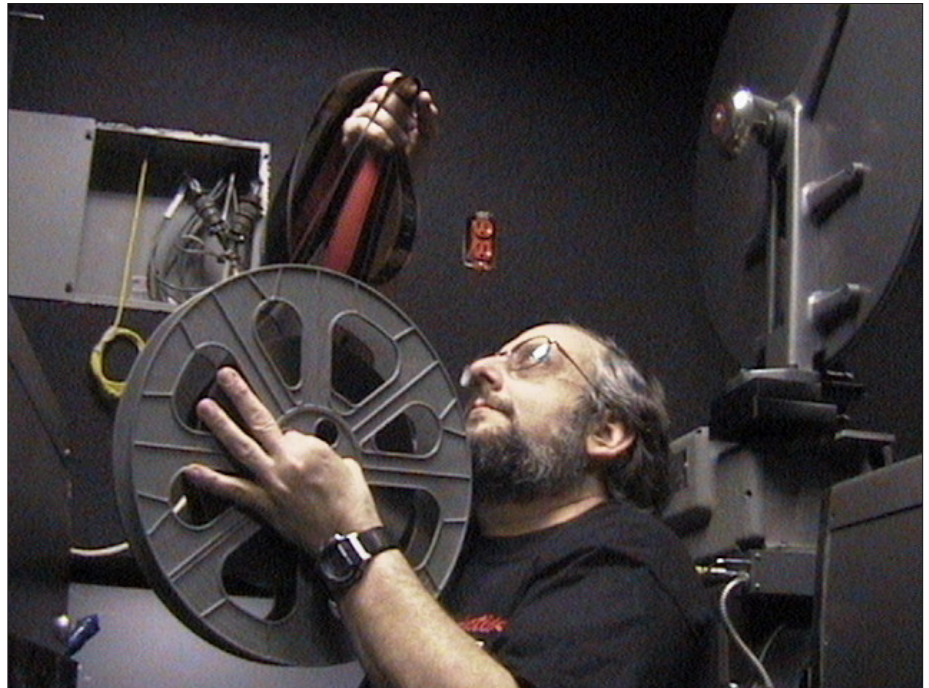
Thank goodness for Jeff Joseph and his *Sabucat Productions*, located in Palmdale, California. With over 60,000 movie trailers in his collection (a majority saved on 35mm), when a documentary or DVD in production needs to pull a movie trailer for their productions, this is their guy.

“...I had a call from Fox, who needed a trailer for a video tape release. They asked if I had it (I did) and could they rent it (yes, they could). That trailer was “Wilson” (1944)”

The demand for those looking to see these classic attractions continues to grow. With many studios misplacing original negatives and others not knowing who owns certain films or collections, classic movies may often be the only element that many can see of certain films and stars, as much of the material is in the public domain.

When it comes to adding the coming attractions of yesteryear into current programs, all genres are in demand. In referring to what the entertainment industry asks him for, Joseph explains, “(It’s) Generally movie star oriented, but less and less for older stars like Bogart and more stars in their twenties and thirties. But science fiction and fantasy is always hot no matter what the age.” Notice the next time you watch the program “Biography” how often it’s padded out with clips of previews.

Joseph houses his collection in a climate controlled building, with the trailers remaining on their cores (trailers rarely come on reels) and stored in boxes of two or three. Due to age, trailers can turn various shades of red or pink – this can be corrected during a transfer to a video



Courtesy: Lauren Jones-Joseph

format. More sensitive film trailers which were made up until the early 50’s are transferred at a lab that can handle the delicate yet dangerous film safely.

Like many other collectors, Jeff Joseph has found some incredible treasures in the most unusual places. “I got a box of film at a flea market. It contained mostly junk, that is, from my point of view, new trailers that are not of much interest to me. Then, at the bottom of the box, a brand new print with uncut leaders of “The Third Man”! Glorious!”

Film has glory years favored by movie enthusiasts and movie trailers are no exception, with Jeff’s favourite era being the Forties and Fifties. He explains, “I find current trailers mostly repetitious and boring. They also give away too much of the film. The trailer for “Topper” does not mention that (the film) is a ghost story!”

If you think if you were to own over 60,000 movie trailers that you would own it all – think again! You might be able to earn some spare change by helping SABUCAT and Jeff Joseph find lost cinematic treasures.

“We are always looking for magnetic stereo trailers, they’re rare as hell.” Jeff Joseph explains, “And I’m always looking for Laurel and Hardy trailers (such as “Sons of the Desert”). Top want: Trailers for Laurel and Hardy SHORTS. That’s right; some of the Laurel and Hardy shorts had trailers... NONE have survived. I will pay a very hefty fee for any of these.”

Regardless of how the context trailers are used now, they will always be entertaining and an excellent way of capturing a particular cinematic moment, and putting it in a context to pull viewers in. Who would have known that this disposable culture of film has provided us with a valuable insight into the culture, style and trends of the cinematic medium?

With over 60,000 trailers, could the king of the trailers possibly have a favourite?

“The Jolson Story” says Mister Joseph, “(It’s a) glorious example of dye-transfer Technicolor.”

Dion’s Fav-5 Trailers

1. Girls Come Too (Nudist camp film with Morganna...Yowza!)
2. Plan Nine From Outer Space (Now, this is a classic!)
3. The Gate (if ever a movie trailer sold people on a movie, this is it)
4. The Apple (Classic Cannon Films crud for a musical with characters from Moosejaw)
5. Sensations (Classic XXX with Lasse Braun, but done tastefully!)

SCRATCHEZ FROM THE D-MAN

As gunshots rang in the air just past midnight, I knew I was starting off 2004 on a great note. Due to terrorist threats in the United States, firecrackers were in short supply in Richmond, so many Virginians (as I was told, in my somewhat inebriated state) shot guns off into the sky. Few of my Canadian friends can say they celebrated New Year's in an alleyway, with gunfire and fireworks. With a belly full of Bloody Marys, and a visit to the redneck bar "Chuckwagon", this New Year had a much better feel than that of 2003.

Just before the New Year, there was another high point - revisiting my cinematic past. I was asked to do a show with Skip Elsheimer of A-V GEEKS at a local club in Raleigh, North Carolina. Oddly enough, the last time I did a show in a club was eight years earlier in North Carolina! Regardless, "Christmas Leftovers", an open format show at "Kings" in the downtown area, was great fun as Skip and I provided the audience with a nicely balanced selection of educational films and bad Russian rap videos. I celebrated getting, how should I say this, "foggy" with my pal Mike (who books art shows for one of the DEVO guys) and a 2 am visit to K-Mart.

And upon entering 2004, I got to do something that I NEVER thought I'd get to do. Richelle of the mag "Katalogue" asked if I would DJ at its launch party. Reiterating that my music diet was a constant course of bands that DON'T sing in English, she was still persuasive. After a 10 minute DJ crash course, I was off playing my favourite Dutch hip hop and Polish power-grunge. It was cool kind of exposing Torontonians to a new experience, and one that actually seemed to fly. There was no "Hey! This isn't in English!" or complaints about my mixing (I'm more into clean cuts from tracks, instead of cheesy cross-fades). But my time spinnin' was just like hearing those gunshots into the Virginian sky... a trip!

Mixing up the old and new. A celluloid bride? Naaaaaaaa!

As the CONFLICT ARCHIVES celebrates its "10th Anniversary" (We actually started showing out of focus acne films in 1992 at Industrial concerts, but like a bottle of Oil Of Olay, you gotta keep em guessin'!), I'm happy to share lots of interesting cinema and events. The audience has provided me with great memories from marriage proposals of friends before movies, audiences rioting at the Rivoli screaming "whir-ley-gig", and on and on. Good and bad. It's been, yet again, a trip.

Don't forget to check out the next CONFLICT ARCHIVES screening on April 22nd of the classic "H.O.T.S.", the T&A classic. Could you afford to miss a film with Danny Bonaduce in bed with a seal? Also, DION CONFLICT: TRAILER TRASH should be playing some other cities shortly. Contact us at eurocoleco@hotmail.com so you never miss a beat.

All the best to you in 2004!

Näin Suomen ja se oli läpi typerien
Kanadalaissilmien!



Hullu kanadalainen ihmettelee maailman menoa. Nelisivuinen newsletter.
Yksi nro 60 sentin postimerkillä. Kaksi nroa 90 sentin postimerkillä. 1.30
euron merkillä jo monta.

CONFLICT IN THE KINO (Suomi);
c/o Tero Lehto;
Ala Tonttilank 7-A-38;
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KONFLIKTI IN THE KINO

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To be added to the CONFLICT ARCHIVES
e-mail list or to comment/argue about KITK,
or to send Tequila Jazzz bootlegs, the Don
Huonot "Olimme kuin veljet" dvd, or
anything else, contact us at:

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Top of the day to: Stephe Perry, Jennifer
"Correction Girl Friday", Dave Faris,
Richelle Forsey, Tero Lehto, Mowey
McDonald, EVERYONE at CIUT 89.5, Matt
Pennachi, Skip Elsheimer, Tim Smy, Colin
"Matroini" Geddes, Mike and Andrea White,
Mikey Bustos, Jeff Joseph, Adam Hulin,
Pekka Malinen, DJ Skip, Tommy Birchett,
the Royal and Equalizing Distort gang, Igor
and Katja, and YOU for your continued
support.

This issue is dedicated to Heiki Sillaste and
Dave Schall, who helped me roll the pizza
dough long ago!

Photo: Dion at the grave of President Munro
- Richmond, VA

3 QUESTIONS



Mikey Bustos: Not sittin' "idle" after "Canadian Idol"

Was I the only one who laughed during last season's airing of "Canadian Idol" when CTV would flash its "Original Programming" banner at the beginning of the program? Could somebody there tell me what's "original" about copying an American show franchise? And adding insult to TV injury is the talent pool so dry in Canada that we had to get a former Prime Minister's son to host? All bitching aside, looking past "Canadian Idol"'s cookie cutter format, you could see some true talent shine through the cornball songs. Weston's own Mikey Bustos made it to the top 10 finalists, and also appears on the "Canadian Idol" finalists' album, which went gold in no time. He's also the first Asian-Canadian to be on a gold-selling album in Canada. Could he be the new "Heino" of Canada? Could you picture him singing "Nico" tracks? Who knows, but before going south of the border to work on his upcoming 1st album, he dropped by the KINO, to answer... 3 QUESTIONS!

KŌNFLIKT IN THE KINŌ / (Dion Conflict): QUESTION #1:

Can you tell me what I'd see if I was looking at the last photos that you developed at a supermarket or maybe a drugstore?

Mikey Bustos: Now, I am not one to think of snatching a camera when I go places or do things even though a lot of times I wish I did because I love photos! One of the most obvious photo shots would include many of my sweet memories with Canadian Idol. My last set of photos would probably be shots of me waiting in line to audition either curled up in my sleeping bag, shivering in the frigid night air or it would be a shot of me sweating in the hot scorching sun in a line that stretched further than Noah's Ark's animal line up; they would include shots of me with past and eliminated contestants and friends I made during the show; photos of me in the hotel we stayed at during the Top 100 competitions; photos of me with TV celebrities like Ben Mulroney, the judges, Ruben Studdard, Clay Aiken, Tanya Kim, etc; they would definitely include snap shots of when I moved into the breathtaking Idol Mansion swimming in the massive indoor pool, chilling in the outdoor hot-tub, bouncing on the

giant trampoline, cooking in the gigantic kitchen, or sleeping in the spacious living room (where I slept every night); finally, they would include snapshots of me at the numerous performances that kept me busy day after day after the show's finale and these would include shots of the wonderful mountains of Vancouver, British Columbia, where I performed for a week, the landscape of Calgary, Alberta, shots of the massive audience at the Ricoh Coliseum or the Skydome where I did concerts, and many more like these; the photo shots would also include me with the many celebrities that I have come across along the way this year, including Tia Carrere, Mariah Carey, Deborah Cox, Sharon & Bram from the Elephant Show, Fred Penner, etc. I think one might even find a few photos of my many pets who I call my children! Haha...

K.I.T.K. QUESTION #2:

One of the things that kind of bugged me about "Canadian Idol" was when they would pull in "American Idols" to perform with the Canadian idols when they were no better or worse than any of the other "Idol" winners from around the world. What's the difference anyhow between an American Idol winner and a Polish Idol champion? Why don't you tell me what you think about this and the Canadian Idol experience?

Mikey Bustos: Well, to answer this question I will begin by asserting that I am certain there is NO set IDOL standard in regards to finding that one Idol winner in a country. I don't think the show (i.e. the Idol franchise) customizes their winner by saying for example "ALL IDOL CHAMPIONS MUST BE GOOD-LOOKING, MUST BE VERY INTELLIGENT, MUST BE A PROFICIENT SPEAKER..." etc. (excluding the obvious prerequisite of 'talent', of course) That's why I feel the Idol shows introduce to the world such a diverse array of stars, all unique, yet without a doubt, stars in their own right! I think each Idol winner becomes a representative of the people of his/her respective country. I find the winners tend to possess certain characteristics of the country's people. This is most likely because the people of a country will naturally vote for those contestants that they can identify with and relate to. This makes the Idol Shows so interesting! As a result, the winner of American Idol, for instance, will definitely be different from the winner of Polish Idol in respect to attitude, etiquette, music/fashion style, appearance, goals, ideologies, experiences, and other areas of life. That is to say, I believe the American idol winner will possess very "American" attitudes, goals, appearance, ideologies, and so on... while the Polish Idol will possess very "Polish" attitudes, goals, ideologies, appearance and so on (whatever they may be) and this I verified through watching the recently aired WORLD IDOL.



Now to answer the last part of the question, I felt the producers of Canadian Idol were not going to just make a predictable spin-off (or an even better word "Rip-off") of the American show. I knew they were going to make Canadian Idol distinctly and unmistakably "Canadian". For one thing, unlike the American Idol judges, the Canadian judges were much nicer to the contestants, reflecting the kindness and hospitality that Canadians are known for. Another thing which really helped me as a contestant was the fact that the show really embraced diversity which of course is another quality that makes Canada unique. I knew

that they were going to be open to all types of music styles, physical appearances, culture, etc. In the American show all the contestants seemed

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Popcorn and Bullets

It's a Drive-In AND a shooting range!

As we approached a highway interchange, I was reminded of the landscape of a science fiction movie. Looking out the window there were large cement columns of the highway of Durham, North Carolina in various locales along the middle and side of the road.

I mulled this all over while Skip and I were on our way to meet some friends of mine who are ardent film collectors and involved with theatres and film fests down in the tri-city region of NC. And we were running late.

Matt had told me some pretty interesting stories about the Starlite Drive-In, located in Durham. So, it seemed like a fine place to meet up, to finally meet the faces behind the E-mails. We drove down a road that was densely populated with Waffle House type franchises and strange Southern banks. Eventually we came across one of the more interesting theatrical places I've visited in some time - The Starlite Drive-In.

Looking out of the car, we could see the hard shelled exterior of the Starlite's screen. Its weathered cobalt-blue exterior looked like it might still have the original paint job (from when the theatre opened in 1940). Skip's

truck took the impact of the pothole laden way inside.

We met up with Matt and Adam, who were waiting for us. There was no one around as we exchanged the typical film geek type talk. Having to hit a bank machine, and starving as well, we hopped in Adam's car to beeline to my favourite Southern greasy spoon, WAFFLE HOUSE. We were reassured that it was OK to leave the truck there to go grab some fine diner cuisine, and for me to pop quarters into the jukebox to hear songs such as the "Waffle House Doo-Wop".



Photo by Matt Pennachi

Returning after some coffee and some late day breakfast, we came back to the Starlite to find the truck still there. Another guy pulled up (who seemed to know our hosts) and said hello as he opened up shop. We decided to let him get "settled in" for a bit as I surveyed the premises.

Even though Matt had told me lots about the drive-in, my eyes were turning the words into truth. The drive in did have a slide and swings for the kids in the front, and a well used shooting range in the back!

Once inside the snack bar offered the usual array of drive-in tempting treats. You can pick up hot dogs, burgers, popcorn, chocolate bars, and well... ammunition. Inside the



Photo by Matt Pennachi

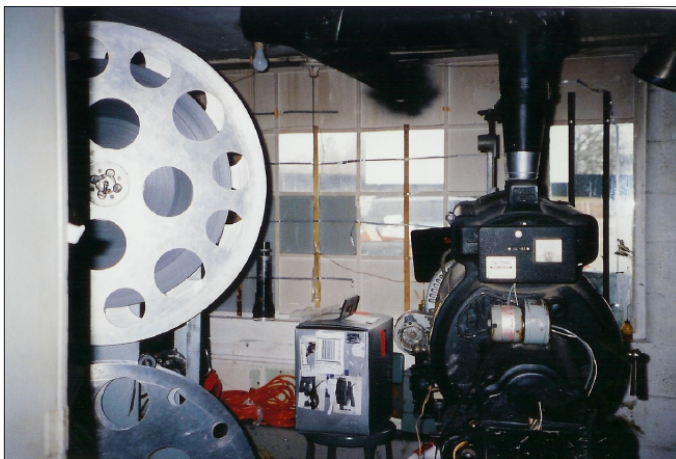


Photo by Matt Pennachi



Photo by Matt Pennachi



Photo by Matt Pennachi



Photo by Matt Pennachi

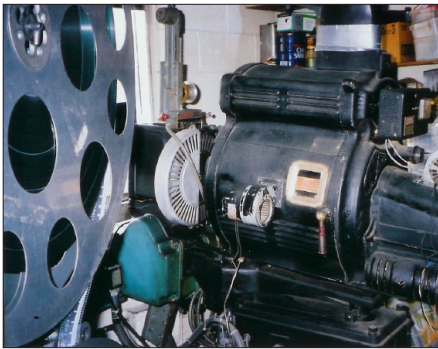


Photo by Matt Pennachi

casing towards the front entrance there were various types of bullets and gun paraphernalia. Heck, if you needed a rifle and a handgun, owner Bob Groves will happily go to his office and find something for your needs. It's one stop cinematic shopping.

But there's more. If the film isn't working for you - relax, there's videotape rentals too. Matt happily told me, "You gotta ask for the chicks with dicks flicks". I'm actually kind of sour that an old RICHIE RICH cartoon videotape is out, as I would have loved to pick that up. But I admit I was also a bit paranoid as to what happens if you don't return it, or bring it back late.

I was given a tour of the projection booth. The inside gates of the 35mm projector were caked with black crud. Matt thought it hadn't been cleaned since the last time they rented out the theatre. Visions of the projector in a kino that recently opened in Kabul, Afghanistan flashed in my head - it had to look like this.

We stepped outside for some more geeky film talk, and I was shocked at what an avid reader Matt is of KONFLIKT IN THE KINO, as he asked about specific issues and almost convincing me to reprint many. Ole' man Groves (the owner) stuck his head out the front door and threw something our way with a big smile on his face.

"Is that a firecracker?" I asked. Indeed, a little cherry bomb went off and made popping noises. It just kind of fits into the whole experience.

Sadly, Skip and I had to get ready for his show at the Raleigh Museum of Natural Sciences and therefore, were forced to miss that night's screening of the movie "Honey". I



Photo by Matt Pennachi



Photo by Matt Pennachi

grabbed a last picture with my celluloid pals with the blank screen in the background and the sun breaking through the clouds behind us. A screening of "Honey" and looking at handguns seemed a bit more entertaining than sitting through "Invaders from Mars".

Are you looking for a decent rifle? Looking for a good shooting range? Hot Buttered Popcorn? Somewhere to rent the long out of print "Richie Rich" videotape?

I know just the place!



Photo by Matt Pennachi



Photo by Matt Pennachi



Photo by Matt Pennachi



Photo by Matt Pennachi



Photo by Matt Pennachi



Photo by Matt Pennachi



Mikey "Canuck Idol" Bustos continued

continued from page 3

to sing the same type of pop/R&B style of music (the "melting pot" that America is) where as one might notice on the Canadian Idol Greatest Moments compilation CD that there are at least 5 different identifiable genres of music... and can you believe that Simon Cowell dude insulting people for being ugly or fat?! Now, what does that have to do with good music? I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the Canadian Idol phenomenon because it gave me a chance to represent Asians in mainstream music, which pretty much became my story on the show; I think many people (not only Asians) identified with that goal and took towards what I stood for on the show, which in my opinion helped me get as far as I did. I've wanted to get my 'foot in the door' for the longest time and I wasn't able to do it until Canadian Idol. Before I had thought there was an Asian barrier in the North American Mainstream Music Industry and now I've proven, to myself at least, that there was no barrier! On the second day of release, the Canadian Idol album sold over 60,000 units, making me the very first Filipino Canadian to sing on a Gold selling record in all of Canadian music history. I find that pretty cool, and I am just hoping this might encourage young singers everywhere belonging to a cultural minority to strive for their dreams, whether it is in music or anything else.

K.I.T.K. QUESTION #3:

You turn to me and say "Where are we Dion?" I laugh and tell you we happen to be in what I would consider the best place in Finland for flea-markets, the town of Lahti. After looking around at various knitted baby clothes and BROS records there's an old man in the corner with this thing that looks like a phone booth, but SO Ikea. The man sees you eyeball it asking what the hell it is and he whispers in your ear that it's a TIME MACHINE and for a 10 Euros you can go back in time and do whatever you want for 24 hours. If you decide to part with your money and go back in time, what time period will you visit and what will you do for 24 hours?

Mikey Bustos: Oh, that's easy - I would go back some 2000 and some years to spend 24 hours with my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ on any day that He lived, or died then lived again! What a wonder it would be to speak with Him and listen to the man preach.

Mikey's rendition of the Dan Hill classic "Sometimes When We Touch" is featured on the Canadian Idol CD, in stores pretty much anywhere in Canada. And for all the latest Mikey news, you can visit www.mikeybustos.ca.

WANTED

If you have any of this stuff, drop me a line. We could be VERY VERY good friends, VERY fast! :)

1. Transatlantic Tunnel (UK 1935) (VHS or DVD)
2. The Pizza Triangle (1970)
3. Pitkä kuuma kesä (Finland 1999) (Is there a DVD of this with subtitles yet?)
4. I Am Curious (Criterion Boxed set - Anyone wanna pawn theirs?)
5. Tiny-Tanic (1997?) (short film)
6. Short film: "Closet Cases of the nerd kind" (ANY format)
7. KINO: 10th Viktor Tsoy Death Anniversary concert from Russian Television
8. Levottomat (CD Soundtrack)
9. Stachursky (Poland) documentary (VHS)
10. Here Come the Tigers! (DVD-R copy is fine)

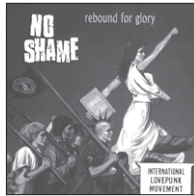


EQUALIZING DISTORT on CIUT 89.5 FM - Sunday nights from 10:00 pm - midnight (Hosts: Jonah Falco, Martin Farkas, Simon Harvey, Stephe Perry, and Scott Stevens). The show dedicates itself to the underground hardcore punk scene. There is a particular emphasis on international releases in the developing thrash, straight edge, grind, garage, Killed By Death, and crust scenes, which means we play material like Out of Vogue, HandsXDown, Ildad, the Real Kids, the Dead Boys, and Cluster Bomb Unit. There is a weekly demo feature (paying homage to the cassette format), weekly event listings, and a monthly top 10 retrospective look at new releases. Request Line: (416) 946-7000. Webcast www.ciut.fm.

JUNK

NO SHAME - "Rebound For Glory" *Full Steam/Hardbeat Records (Finland)*

After listening to the first track on this two disk set, called "Democracy?", I truly hoped that the rest wasn't mediocre folk-punk. My wish was answered - Helsinki's NO SHAME provides a nice collection of up-tempo "77-78" style punk, with a bit of a thrashy feel. Tracks like "Now!" and "Swan-Song" contain lots of cord-progressions. My only complaint is that the double CD could have been a single disc, as both are fairly short. If you're a fan of raw vocals and that early thrash sound, you should have NO SHAME in picking up this NO SHAME album.



SCANDINAVIAN MUSIC GROUP - "Onnelliset Kohtaa" *BMG Finland Oy*

What IS Scandinavian Music Group trying to sound like? From a track like "Kun tuuli oli viilee", which sounds like Mylene Farmer crashing a Pinata party to the trippy "Sä" which runs over 6 minutes and sounds like Moby mixed with Pink Floyd (ala "Animals" live gigs), it's all very eclectic and interesting. The fact is, SCANDINAVIAN MUSIC GROUP might be influenced by many, but they don't seem to be trying to be anyone but themselves. Sure there are a couple of tracks that approach the "cusp" of making Janne Tulkki sound like WASP or something. But for those who don't expect favorite music acts to stick to any particular style (such as ULTRA BRA or Poland's "2 TM 2,3"), this offering by Scandinavian Music Group (along with their CD singles which are excellent) is more tasty than the meatball special at Ikea.



INTERSTELLAR - "Painting and Kissing" *Plan 11*

This promo only 3" CD features two songs by this Toronto group. "Painting and Kissing" reminds me of two bands in particular - Estonia's DALLAS and the Arizona based SKINNER BOX. It's all nice airy vocals with ribbon layered electronics. "Basement Dub" is a pretty forgettable instrumental sludging through the electro-beat wasteland. They should have called it something other than the over-used "Basement" term. Regardless, the first track made me curious about their upcoming CD release which will likely be well enjoyed by people who enjoy this genre.



DISTANCED - "Truth Becomes Sin" *(Demo CD)*

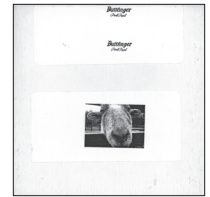
My cousin gave me this CD of his band and I decided to listen to it at work. Then, this asshole comes in and says, "Could you please turn this down? It's giving me a major headache". So, automatically, this gets points! From the booming metropolis of Newcastle, Ontario comes this 3 track CD, with abrasive vocals and a KORN influence. Sometimes it reminded me of SERIAL JOE's 1st album, which isn't bad either when it's not chartering into the "crossover rap" arena. Finally, a demo that captures the energy of the angry youth on the outskirts of Orono!



BUTTFINGER - "Pink Pearl" *(self-released)*

While a finger up the "poop chute" might not be music to some people's ears, BUTTFINGER is. "Pink Pearl" contains 2x3" cds (one credit card

sized), with Tommy Birchett's interesting experimental landscapes. Repetition and beat-oriented abrasive tones are combined with some interesting samples. The boxed set also contains a pink pearl eraser. It's abrasive noise, with a "daddy-O" rhythm. Pick up one of the best things to come out of Richmond, Virginia since GWAR by contacting Tommy at buttfinger@broadcastatic.com.



ОКЕАН ЕЛБИ. "Суперсиметрія" *Мистерия Звука*

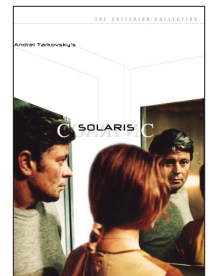
"ОКЕАН ЕЛБИ" (English translation: OKEAN ELZI)'s last album that floated through my hands couldn't compare to their 1999/2000 debut. "Кишка" starts off the disc with warbly electronic rhythms, while a track such as "Susy" has a simplistic and very Ukrainian feel with its haunting and backing strings, a la Vopli. "Майже весна" is a good track too. Hey, this is a good album for those who like traditional influences on modern Ukrainian rock music.

SOLARIS (USSR 1972)

Starring: Natalya Bopndarchuk, Donatas Banionis

Director: Andrei Tarkovsky

Stephen Soderbergh must be freebasing or maybe he just went fucking mad thinking that he could direct a remake of this excellent film based on the story by Stanislaw Lem. Kris Kevin (Banionis) goes to explore the current state of the SOLARIS space station only to find the crew slowly going mad due to an ocean below that seems to "create" people who are fragments of the astronaut's psyches. From its haunting Bach opening, to Tarkovsky's long shots with numerous slow pans showing the characters' mental bolts slowly loosening, it's still way WAY ahead of its time. The Criterion DVD contains deleted scenes (!!) from the Mosfilm archives, and interviews with other cast and crew members, as well as excellent audio commentary by the authors of "The films of Andrei Tarkovsky: A Visual Fugue". The audio was a little low on the disc for my liking, but by all means, don't let that deter you from seeing how a real film is made, especially in comparison to vastly inferior Hollywood knock-offs.



THE ARROW (Canada 1977)

Starring: Sara Botsford, Ron White, Aidan Devine

Director: Don McBrearty

I found this at a Pickering Goodwill store for \$4, and I'm really glad I did. "The Arrow" tells the story of Canada's Avro Aviation programme and the creation of the infamous "Avro Arrow" airplane which is now part of Canadian pop folklore, as the movie takes the stand that Prime Minister John Diefenbaker became paranoid about ruining relations with our American friends and had them destroyed. Some things never change! Dan Aykroyd portrays Crawford Gordon, the president of Avro Aviation (from which the town of Malton, ON springs), but his performance still reminded me of his role in "The Great Outdoors". However, just like the AVRO, everything takes flight. "The Arrow" embraces Canada's zestful dreamer mentality, illustrating how our country believed we, could do anything as a nation together. After watching it, you're left thinking that we as Canadians can never truly execute huge projects as part of the Canadian national personality. Still, it's an excellent two part mini-series that anyone interested in aviation or Canadian history should see.



AVANT GARDE #2

Starring: Various

Director: Various

Three black and white marvels of Avant-Garde cinema from 1924 and 1928. First there's "Symphonie Diagonale, made by Viking Eggeling, which took three years to make. Primarily, there's movement of geometric type patterns while Eggeling plays with the shapes in experimentation with "timing" and "travel". This seemingly simple film just leaves you with unexplained visceral happiness. "L'Etoile Demer" (from 1928) and shot in France tells a love story shot through frosted glass, leaving the viewer to draw his or her own conclusions on the emotions. "Entra'Acte" (again from France) is directed by Rene Clare, and was used as an intermission of the instantist ballet. You wonder what an audience in the Twenties might have thought of these films inspired by the current (at the time) Dadist movement, which were then years ahead of their time. Now we get to see art and film school students copying these films all the time. VIDEO YESTERYEAR put out this tape. If you ever find a copy, and have an interest in early avant garde cinema, it's a MUST have.

THE PLAGUE (Canada 1978)

Starring: Daniel Pilon, Kate Reid

Director: Ed Hunt

A wonderfully cheap "Cronenberg" rip off from the director of "Bloody Birthday", shot in 16mm. A man made bacteria escapes from a lab (which looks like some building at York University) which can be transmitted by touch. It passes through Toronto as one carrier walks into Mr. Sub restaurants (and is passed on from there) and by the old Rio Cinema on Yonge Street that happens to be showing "Sexual Freedom in Germany"! My favorite line is when a doctor starts squirming on the floor and the other doctor says, "Don't worry! It's only epilepsy!" I've enjoyed my personal film print of this for years and finally a DVD has come out, but only in the UK (and it's region 5). Thank Gawd for hand sanitizer!

ILSA, HAREM OF THE OIL SHEIKS (1976)

Starring: Dyanne Thorne, Spalding Grey, Uschi Digart

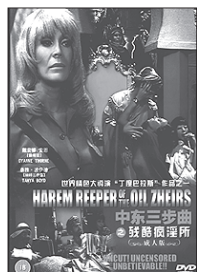
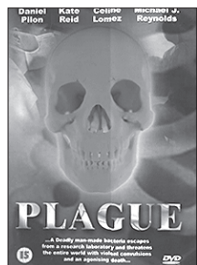
Director: (Uncredited)

Ilsa might have died in the first film (Ilsa, she wolf of the S.S.), but nobody ever thought of that in this wonderful 2nd installment in the series, which is in extremely poor taste. Ilsa goes from the concentration camp (from the first film) to training kidnapped girls into "training" for a sheik's "harem". A Henry Kissinger type character tries to "catch her". For sleaze, the acting is top notch, and Dyanne Thorne plays Ilsa beautifully. My copy is an obvious Asian pirate which has the most laughable spelling. Actually, the front of the box calls the film "Harem Reeper of the Oil Zheirs" and under the headline it says "Uncut! Uncensored! Unbelievable!" "Unbelievable" it is!

THE PARK (HONG KONG 2004)

Director: Andrew Lau Lo

After an amusement park closes years 14 years earlier when a kid falls off a Ferris wheel, a dopey Asian girl goes back and finds out "spirits" still possess it and that they can only disappear by snapping "Polaroids". The concept, if properly executed, could work for one of those "better than junky" type flicks, but even with its 3-D segments (which don't work too well with the



DVD), it's just plain junky. Bet you've played scarier games of TETRIS than walking in THE PARK.

TWISTED NERVE (UK 1968)

Starring: Hayley Mills, Hywel Bennett

Director: Roy Boulting

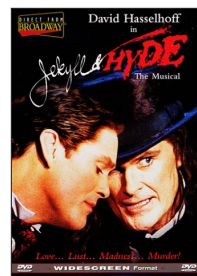
The film opens with the line, "The producers wish to express there is no scientific connection between Mongolism and criminal or psychotic behavior" and on that happy note we're off! Martin (Hywel Bennett from fine penis transplant film "Percy") pretends to be autistic and seems enamored with Susan (played by perky Hayley Mills), and after telling his parents he's gone to France, shows up at her parents' door and asks to stay with them (all acting border-line mentally challenged). From there, he happily axes and kills those in his way. It takes awhile for the plot to begin, but afterwards the characters get all twisted up in diabolical situations. You can buy this in English with Korean subtitles (it's still not available domestically) at www.superhappyfun.com.

JEKYLL & HYDE THE MUSICAL (2001)

Starring: David Hasselhoff, Coleen Sexton, Andrea Rivette

Director: Don Roy King

David Hasselhoff in a musical version of "Jekyll & Hyde"? It's true! And you'll be laughing within minutes of putting this DVD on (which I found in the \$5 bin at a Raleigh, NC K-Mart!) from the first song David sings (and folks, it's wall to wall songs). David doesn't even bother trying to put on a British accent. Some songs are pretty decent, but the body language of all the actors reveal why you don't really remember, or know anything about this "Broadway" production. Filmed in HDTV, Hasselhoff said on Howard Stern that most of the audience for Jekyll & Hyde was German. Jekyll and Hyde itself runs just like spending a night at Oktoberfest with beer flowing like water. In the morning, you remember nothing.



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