

KONFLIKT IN THE KINO

Issue 12

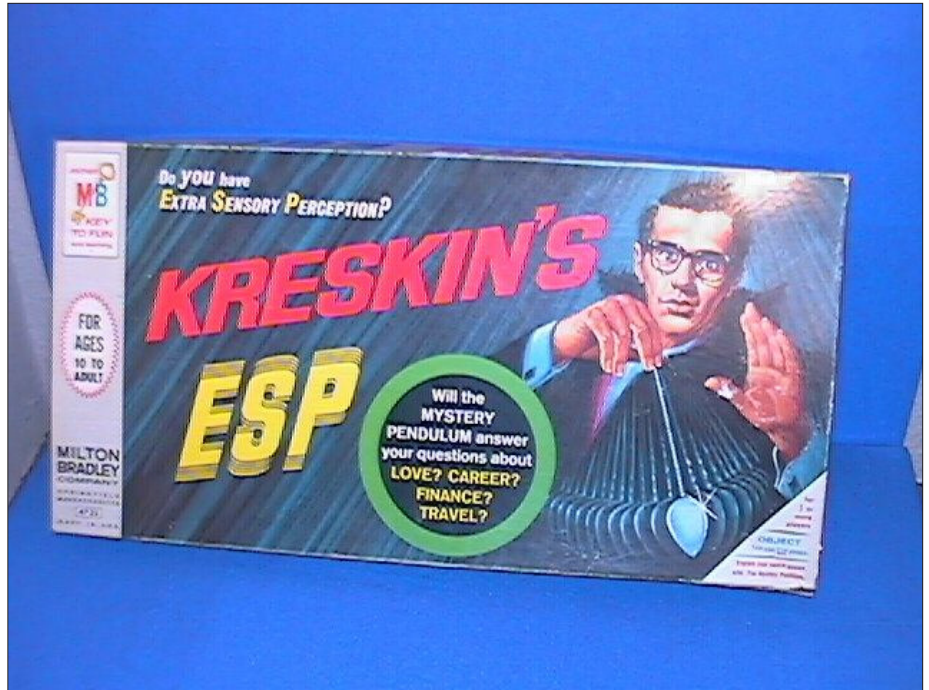
WHEN PICTURES AND SOUND COLLIDE THERE ARE FATALITIES

Mysteries from Beyond Earth - Films out of this World!

A truly funny trend in current cinema is the reinvigorated interest in the documentary format. Maybe it took hold in a place like Toronto, where a film such as Michael Moore's "Bowling for Columbine" played for 6 months in first and second run cinemas. If I assessed general public opinion by word of mouth, a film such as "Supersize Me" is drawing an audience that might not find pap such as "The Day After Tomorrow" appealing. If you compare the amount of press that Michael Moore's new film "Fahrenheit 9/11" garnered to that of the latest Harry Potter movie (and both got a lot), it's proof that the documentary format has returned in all its glory to the theatre.

It's great to see documentaries come back (did they ever leave?) Especially since they generally feature material that for the most part is outside the Hollywood system, and if this helps give Joe Blow in suburbia a different perspective, more's the better. It also shows you that you don't need a lot of unimaginative studio marketing in order for a film to catch on. Good word of mouth will do that. People are starving for some form of mind stimulating entertainment on ANY level, and if this trend in cinema is helping out, in a triumph of substance over style, so be it.

The last heyday of the theatrical documentary was the Seventies. But this was a different time when we worried more about the unexplained instead of big corporations and ruthless politicians. Stonehenge... ESP...



Project Bluebook... Witchcraft. Topics such as these were consistently explored in various theatrical documentaries – and all to a hungry public that wanted to know SOME form of answer to life's unexplained mysteries (and we're not talking about the Caramilk chocolate bar secret either!).

Various companies specialized in this

genre, such as the infamous "Schick Sunn" who brought the public great films such as "In Search of Historic Jesus" or my favourite "Beyond and Back", which happily swindled folks into drive-ins and cinemas to hear lots of "speculation" and see foggy UFO footage. As a kid, you'd come out of this G rated pap hoping to run into a Bigfoot, or try to bend a spoon like Uri Geller. It was such a great time!

MYSTERIES FROM BEYOND EARTH basically takes every conspiracy and crams them all into one little film, narrated by one Lawrence Dobkin. Pick a conspiracy, it's here – and all in a 100 minute run time. It's filled with enough different trains of thought and ideas to actually break down and find other films along the same vein. Kind of like the Kevin Bacon game!

So, I take some of the topics covered in MYSTERIES FROM BEYOND EARTH and recommend other films that embrace these topics. And for a bit longer!

DEVIL WORSHIP

DEVIL WORSHIP: EXPOSING SATAN'S UNDERGROUND (1988)

No, it's not the Seventies this time, but seeing this "Geraldo Rivera Special" (made before he

TEST YOUR PSYCHIC POWERS! WIN A PRIZE!



On June 8th, 2004 at 6:07 PM, I have taken a pink piece of paper and with a black marker, put 3 things on the paper. They include a shape, a number, and a letter. This paper has been sealed in an envelope here in Scarborough. Can you use your psychic powers and guess what they are?

The person who gets it "bang on" or closest, will win a special prize package of "out of this world home entertainment" including CD's and DVD's!

Put your mental skills in action and drop us an e-mail at eurocolecto@hotmail.com no later than July 31st, or send us a postcard to our post address inside. The winner will be contacted (not mentally) and will be posted, along with the answer to the "KITK Psychic Challenge"!

Good luck!

continued on back page

SCRATCHEZ FROM THE D-MAN _____

Soap operas are more fun in German. If you've never seen the German soap, MARIONHOFF, you're truly missing out. After booze benders in Finland, we would watch it somewhat whacked out – it's full of German soap actors bawling over things such as when Toby needed a kidney transplant. German soaps were good, but it wasn't THAT entertaining when it seemed like my life reflected a show such as MARIONHOFF.

I was feeling down at the beginning of May. I had to turn down directing a music video for a "former Canadian Idol Contestant", and I ache inside to get back behind the camera, so it was pretty upsetting to have to back out of a project, especially when it's something you love. You can't make a diamond if someone hands you a rock and a hammer. It sucked that it ended like a bad episode of MARIONHOFF, minus some good Finlandia vodka.

Luckily, right around the corner was a quick trip to Montreal. DION CONFLICT: TRAILER TRASH had some dates in Montreal, so I got on the VIA train to Montreal, viewing stops along the way drinking strong coffee and eating turkey breast on a pita.

After finally meeting up with Ricky J (Who readers of "Mirror" voted "Montreal's best dressed") and grabbing a hotel (where I got a discount because I spoke broken Russian to the woman at the desk) it was off to meet some film friends at a local pub outside of the Cinema Du Parc. As we chatted about (you guessed it) film, I gobbled up my cheeseburger, trying to keep my eyes open after being awake forever to introduce TRAILER TRASH to the fine cinema patrons of Montreal.

The people were great both nights and afterwards it felt nice to have many people come up to me and thank me for coming to Montreal and presenting TRAILER TRASH – and, each patron was given the last issue of KONFLIKT IN THE KINO. And they had no idea how their warmth cheered me up.

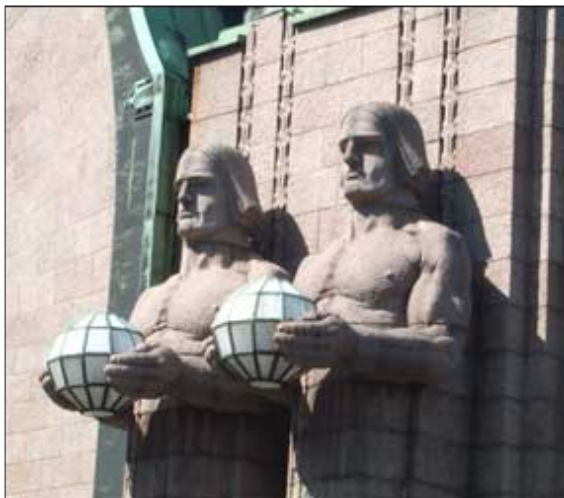
My downtime was great fun too. Walking around and finding church flea markets buying "Sol the Clown" 45s, having Ricky J expose me to the wonders of poutine, and having brunch with friends eating Montreal smoked meat and poached eggs outside biker territory, it was great fun and I can't wait to go back again!

Speaking of Montreal, I should welcome new readers there as now KONFLIKT IN THE KINO is carried at the CINEMA DU PARC, ditto with patrons of the CAROLINA THEATRE OF DURHAM, down in North Carolina. Hope you enjoy.

Out of the ashes of a dead project came the roots for my new production company, KAUNIS PETO. Currently, I have a great 16mm short starting production and a great crew slowly assembling (I'll brag about that some other time). My short "Mentally, I Go Bananas" will start production later on this summer and I can't wait. Also, it looks like I'll be spinning my usual array of the latest music from the Baltic regions on July 16th at the Cameron (on Queen Street), which is a Friday night. So for those for a penchant for a good chocolate martini and hearing Estonian hip-hop, you know where to be! Be sure to sign up for our mailings at eurocoleco@hotmail.com so you don't miss a beat, or a frame.

Happy Juhannus to you all!

Näin Suomen ja se oli läpi typerien Kanadalaisilmien!



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

KONFLIKT IN THE KINO (Suomi);
c/o Tero Lehto;
Ala Tonttilank 7-A-38;
15170 Lahti



KONFLIKT IN THE KINO

(#12) (June 2004)

"Konflikt in the Kino" is a publication in conjunction with the CONFLICT ARCHIVES screenings.



Text written by
Dion Conflict

Designed by
Stephe Perry

Edited by
Jennifer Goldsmith



To be added to the CONFLICT ARCHIVES e-mail list or to comment/argue about KITK, or to send nice DC Shoe company shirts, early Lyijykomppania bootlegs, a VHS copy of the documentary "Tongues Untied" or anything else, contact us at:

eurocoleco@hotmail.com

Our snail mail address is:

PO Box 81008
45 Harbour Square
Toronto, ON
M5J 2V3
Canada

Sending good vibes to: Stephe Perry, Jennifer "Correction Girl Friday" Goldsmith, Dave Faris, Richelle Forsey, Tero Lehto, Mikko Huikkonen, CIUT 89.5 FM, Tim Smy, Colin "Matroni" Geddes, Skip Elsheimer, Matt Pennachi, Mitch Davis, DJ Skip, Mike White, The Royal and Equalizing distort gang, Hannele Kivilahti, Cinema Du Parc, Ricky J, Jay Bakker, Jim & Joyce in NC, Kaarle Viikate, Mowey McDonald, Keith Reardon, Anna, Matt D, Igor, Owen, and you for your continued support. Thanks!

This issue is dedicated to: Bartek, Lucja, and Marcin. Where are you?

Photo: Richelle Forsey

3 QUESTIONS

Television, Tattoos, And Finding Truth *Jay Bakker: Son of a Preacher Man*

Many of us bitch about our dysfunctional childhoods. We never got enough love from our folks, we dealt with self image issues, felt isolated, and we just didn't belong. Stand in line! You can forgive Jay Bakker for thinking his childhood might have been truly unusual. His family, infamous for the "PTL Club" (a televangelism program that appealed to just as many secular viewers as Christians), experienced the crash of their television empire in 1986, and their Christian amusement park located in South Carolina called "Heritage USA" closed. Jay's family was humiliated, his Dad thrown in jail, and his sister ran off to get married. It all unfolded like a Greek tragedy, as we watched the perky Christian family who seemed to have it all, become unglued. Antigone could not have written it better. Years later, Jay reflected on his bumpy adolescent road, finding himself and God in the book "Son of A Preacher Man: My Search for Grace in the Shadows" (Harper, ISBN 006251699X). It's a book my folks reluctantly bought me for Christmas a couple years back, but one I enjoyed reading. I wished Jay had concentrated more on explaining the "mind trip" of switching environmental surroundings during the demise of the PTL empire, but it's still a good read. As our past is like a tattoo that never washes off (and Jay has plenty!), it seems that he's moved on. In Atlanta, he's involved with REVOLUTION MINISTRIES, spreading the gospel to those that don't fit into another's cookie cutter Christian image: skaters, punks, skinheads. Not exactly those you'd see on the cover of "Altar Boy" magazine. He gave us a bit of his time, to answer...*The 3 QUESTIONS!*



Photo by: Eric Waters

"I wanted to show the dangers of religion and how it destroys peoples lives...." Jay Bakker says re: writing book

you explain what your motivation was for writing the book and perhaps from what angle you approached it when you first started writing?

Jay Bakker: I had wanted to write a book for a while and had given up since I got no response from publishers. Then Harper Collins asked me to write a book which was exciting because they had put out books by people who have inspired me with their books like Brendan Manning and Johnny Cash. The main reason I wrote the book was that I didn't and still don't want to see anyone in the church go through what my family did. I wanted to show the dangerous side of religion and how it destroys people's lives. I guess the angle I came at the book with was to show even though some Christians are asses that doesn't mean Jesus doesn't love everyone unconditionally.

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

One of the things I learned to do in Russia was to pick mushrooms in the forest. It's beautiful in the early early morning while the dew sits on the grass and people hit the countryside to pick the fabulous fungi. Say I were to take you and your family out in the forests of Russia to pick mushrooms, who do you think would collect the most for the day and if you were to bring the mixed CD to be the soundtrack for the morning (playing in the boom box), what would be some bands we would be listening to?

Jay Bakker: Since my wife and I both hate mushrooms we wouldn't go on the trip. But I do listen to Bob Dylan, Social Distortion, Prince, Pedro the Lion and Sixteen Horsepower in my car.

KONFLIKT IN THE KINO / (Dion Conflict): QUESTION #1:

In case you never heard of them Jay, Canada had an awesome band back in the eighties called "Men without Hats". They hit fame with their tracks "Safety Dance" and "Pop Goes the World", but their other tracks were far superior. One of them was called "Antarctica" and had the line, "Ice age is here, right in your town". This had me thinking about IF an ice age (or storm) were to happen in Atlanta. How do you think you and Revolution Ministries could help the people in your community?

Jay Bakker: I would search the frozen caverns of Peachtree to find any dead ton tons. Upon finding a family of dead ton tons who have obviously been attacked by a large family of wookies, I would then slit their bellies and get all the people I could to live in the warmth that is the dead belly of a ton. We would hide out until the rebel alliance came to our rescue.

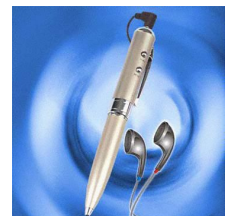
K.I.T.K. QUESTION #2:

Your book, "Son of a Preacher Man" is a good read. One could digest the novel and come to the conclusion that it's about the power of faith, or how lost one can become when material things around us collapse, or the bonding of family through crisis. Could

Ton Tons and Wookies? Is this some American thing? It sounds like shoe stores to me! Jay's book, "Son of a Preacher Man: My Search for Grace in the Shadows" can be purchased through various online bookstores. He can also be seen in the documentary "The Eyes of Tammy Faye" (who I was with on Canada's answer to "Oprah", "Shirley"). Also, for more information on Revolution Ministries, visit www.vivalarevolution.org

Special thanks to Matt Debanedictis for his invaluable "go-between" skills!

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR KONFLIKT IN THE KINO E-NEWSLETTERS?



If not, now's the time! New entrants will be entered in a draw to win a prize pack that includes an uber cool FM radio pen (like the spies have!) and a gaggle of new releases, courtesy of VIDEO DINER! Sign up now!

Drop a line to

eurocoleco@hotmail.com to

never miss a beat, round the world!

A Film to Relish ?

Hot Dog Man: A Case Study

I was invited to a dinner party to celebrate the birthday of motion pictures, somewhere in North Carolina. After traveling over a day through the United States by bus, my eyes felt like mercury was slowly making them heavy – this as I enjoyed good red wine and paella while talking to various film people in the North Carolina scene. Afterwards, we celebrated filmdom's birthday by screening some. This is when I first became introduced to the short film HOT DOG MAN: A CASE STUDY. Conceived by Joyce Ventimiglia and Jim Haverkamp, HOT DOG MAN introduces viewers to an oddly fascinating sculpture located in the downtown area of Durham, North Carolina. Various people are involved giving their two cents on what exactly the fiberglass weenie is, and what they think of it. The bunned Ball Park seems to provoke comments that range from the sculpture being a sign of racism to a statement of old school hip hop. This Super 8 film has the viewer looking at an object, and reflecting on what it's trying to say. It shows that artifacts (especially of the goofy kind), still evoke raw guttural emotions, on some level. I spoke with Jim and Joyce and asked them to "cut the mustard" in regards to their short film.

KONFLIKT IN THE KINO/Dion Conflict: How did the idea for "Hot Dog Man: A Case Study" come together?

Joyce Ventimiglia: It was pretty much love at first sight. We both looked at it and were so blown away by it. It was just so odd and seemed to appear out of the blue. Everyone we talked to had a different reaction. It was like some kind of Rorschach test. We both just looked at each other and knew right away that we needed to make a movie. It's visually amazing.

Jim Haverkamp: It's such a completely bizarre thing to have show up in your town. Once we saw it we asked all our friends if they had seen it, and almost everyone had that sort of "Oh my god, yes, what the fuck is it?" reaction that it was a no-brainer to try and figure it out on film.

KITK: When approaching the subject, did you approach it (and be honest with this) as a cultural artifact or more as a joke in regards to putting the hot dog man into perspective?

Joyce: It was a little of both. A joke in the respect that it's funny as hell to look at. But it's easy to get into cultural artifact territory when you start to think about why it's funny. It also helped that some of the people we interviewed looked at it as a cultural symbol for everything from meat consumption to racism. I guess it's America in a nutshell and we're not the only ones to think so. A couple of weeks after we had the first screening, there was a "Zippy the Pinhead" comic strip that featured The Hot Dog Man, who is from Clearlake CA.

Jim: Yeah, America seems to be about the goofy and the scary rolled into one (Disney, Ronald McDonald, G.W. Bush, etc.), so the hot dog statue seemed to fit both bills. It's absurd and yet culturally resonant at the same time. Some people might think "What's the big deal—it's just a plastic statue," but that's the whole thing with cultural studies. Both Joyce and I are into that kind of crap.

KITK: The film oddly enough reminds me of the beginning of George Romero's "There's Always Vanilla" (1971) in which many people comment on this weird contraption, somewhere in Pittsburgh. Have either of you seen that?

Joyce: I haven't, Jim?

Jim: No, sounds great though!

KITK: It looks like this film was shot in Super 8, was it?

Joyce: Yup, every frame.

KITK: What was your shooting ratio?

Joyce: I think we shot about 5 rolls.

KITK: How did you think you made the footage more visually stimulating considering that you primarily had to film the object over and over?

Joyce: A big part of the movie is listening to the different perspectives about how people think about the Hot Dog Man - so visually, we were trying to get people to actually LOOK at it in different ways with the

camera using shot choices and kooky camera angles. (Jim did most of the shooting and I did more of the audio/music - but we both did a little of both...I really dig using the macro lens).

Jim: This seems like it would be a good exercise for a film student—"Shoot the same object over and over and try to make it as different as possible." I don't think we consciously thought about it too much—I think I was just so infatuated with the statue that I saw it through love-coloured lenses.

KITK: Past what some might think

after the first viewing of watching, "Hot Dog Man", I believe it's common for most people to see an object or sculpture that just gets a gut reaction which makes you either angry or mad. Can you remember the first time you saw the object and what your feelings were?

Joyce: I just thought it was really, really funny and kind of weird that something like that would show up in North Carolina.

Jim: At first I was horrified and fascinated—that weird kind of nauseated thrill you get, like when you're a kid and you stumble upon a dead animal lying in the street or something. Then it was just shock: even in America, where we keep topping ourselves with the vulgar, stupid, absurd, etc., it's still possible to see something like this and think Jesus Christ, I can't believe this! This is too much! A cartoony hot dog wrapped in a flag diligently working to exterminate itself? How can people see this and NOT realize it's a huge metaphor for our contemporary society??

KITK: Are there a lot of resources for film-makers in the Durham, North Carolina area?

Joyce: There's a pretty vibrant film scene for being a fairly small city. There's a bi-monthly screening for stuff that originates on film called Flicker (<http://www.flickerfestival.com/flicker/>). Duke University has something called the Center for Documentary Studies that offers a lot of classes and has exhibits etc. The Full Frame Documentary Film Festival is also based in Durham. Then there's Skip's A/V Geeks programs and a lot of basic 'film nerd' types around too.

KITK: What has the reaction been to public screenings of HOT DOG MAN?

Joyce: People seem to like it and laugh.

Jim: Yeah, even "straight" types seem to find it funny.

KITK: If someone wanted a copy of your film, is there any way they could pick it up?

Joyce: We're going to put a link up to <http://www.brighteyepictures.com> about Hot Dog Man and how to get it. Basically, send us \$5.00 and we'll burn you a DVD. [brighteyepictures.com](http://www.brighteyepictures.com) is also good place to check out a feature length film that Jim did with Brett Ingram. The film is called Monster Road. It's about underground animation legend Bruce Bickford. It's amazing and has been screening at festivals all over the place lately.

KITK: Last question, What do you put on YOUR hot dogs?

Joyce: Mustard & Relish. NO MAYO EVER.

Jim: I've become a fan of what seems to be the "standard" way in NC: chili, mustard, onion. Ditto on the mayo prohibition.



Photo by: Eric Waters

Some have touched this wiener in Durham, North Carolina.

In the Beginning, We were Gloomy Guys from Finland

An introduction to the music of VIIKATE.

If Viking ships still roamed the Baltic Sea, the men at the bottom of the boat might be listening to VIIKATE, drinking from large goblets and eating gravlax. Sadly, if you were to go to Finland now, the closest thing you might find to a Viking would be various Asterix books. Happily, VIIKATE albums are around the country. Some may make the comparison to TIMO RAUTAINEN & TRIO NISKALAUKAUS, but true fans will tell you there is none. While the TIMO & TRIO provide the listener with lower marauding chords, VIIKATE seems to be playing a bit higher. For myself, it musically seems a bit "happier", for metal. With the midsummer tours around Finland fast approaching, VIIKATE's lead singer Kaarle had to take some time out of his schedule to sit down and speak with KONFLIKT IN THE KINO to talk about the usual things a Canadian WOULD ask a Finnish metal band singer. Duh!

KONFLIKT IN THE KINO/DION CONFLICT: Terve, Mita kuuluu?

Kaarle Viikate: Kiitos, hyvää! On aivan mahtava meininki meneillään!

KITK: How exactly did VIIKATE form and whereabouts in Finland did this happen?

Kaarle: I saw a band called LYIJYKOMPPANIA (Leadcompany) playing and I wanted play and write the same kind of Finnish music. My hometown of Viikate is KOUVOLA, which is in south-east Finland.

KITK: Did you consider yourself a vocalist at the time?

Kaarle: Absolutely NOT and I don't consider myself as a vocalist even now. It's much easier to sing my own written songs with no-singing-voice.

KITK: What were some of the first songs that were jammed together as Viikate"? Did any of these make the "Vaiennut Soitto" ep?

Kaarle: We recorded our first demo "Piinaava hiljaisuus" (Agonizing silence) in January 1997. Songs that were recorded have been released in few 7" throughout the years.

KITK: Many of our readers might not be to familiar with VIIKATE, being in North America and all, so why don't you describe how you picture your sound and explain it to them.

Kaarle: Gloomy Finnish melancholy rock with strong twang guitar-flavour. In the beginning, we were just gloomy guys from Finland.

KITK: One thing I noticed early on was VIIKATE's love of chord repetition and exaggerated bridges within songs. Does this develop



Kuvat: A.G. Salminen

The boys of Viikate. Kaarle says, "I don't consider myself as a vocalist even now".

from any certain influence or is it based on a certain particular individual in the band?

Kaarle: I think those kinds of arrangements came from the LYIJYKOMPPANIA-songs that I was so influenced by. Nowadays most of the songs are written in more ordinary rock style.

KITK: What made you decide to start recording?

Kaarle: The fact that there were just two of us, Simeoni (Drums) and me (rest). We were not able to do any shows at the beginning.

KITK: My first CD by you I guess would be the "Roudasta Rospuuttoon" EP. Do you have any comments on that?

Kaarle: It was a fine EP to start listening to Viikate. I like that still very much. I find a very strong red line going through the CD. The title instrumental is my favourite on the EP.

VIIKATE: What was the first "summer festival" you played? Was it "hyvä" or "paska"?

Kaarle: Down by the Laituri in Turku, Finland in 2001. It was extremely hyvä (good). It was our third gig ever and people were stage diving and having a really good time!

KITK: VIIKATE has made a conscious decision to release vinyl throughout its

career. Why is that? (I'd put out myself for a copy of the "Odotus" 7"! - dc)

Kaarle: I've had my best musical experiences by listening to vinyl-lp's. That's why that format is so dear to me and from same reason I want to release Viikate-music in vinyl. All the 7"s are out of print but in the Fall there will be a collection of early EPs and 7"s through the Longplay Music.

KITK: I got footage of you one time introducing a video of yours onetime on JYRKI. Are you sad that JYRKI has bit the dust?

Kaarle: I think it's kind of sad that small Finnish bands don't have any forum that shows their music videos.

KITK: Let's talk about the new EP. What makes "Kuolleen miehen kupletti" different than your previous recorded material?

Kaarle: I think that basics are the same but the twang guitar has bigger role in the music. And there is no instrumental song in this EP!

KITK: What are your plans for juhannus?

Kaarle: Viikate is playing three shows in Finnish juhannus festivals. After that I head for the shores of Lake Kaa.

Kaarle: When I say Canada, does anything come to mind?

Are you familiar with the Finnish comedy show Kummeli...?

KITK: Uh, not really. But I own an album by Kusela! Is there anything you want to buy off an infomercial right now?

Kaarle: I already got the Abtronic!

KITK: Is there anything you would like to say to KONFLIKT IN THE KINO readers?

Kaarle: If you have ghosts you have everything!

KITK: Kiitos Kaarle!

Kaarle: Well, thank you - meaning ISOT TATTIKSET!

TO 01.07	HELSINKI, On the Rocks
PE 25.06	VALKEAKOSKI, Hotelli Waltikka
LA 03.07	KORVOULA, Korja-rol klubi, Riviera
TO 08.07	IMATRA, Night Train
LA 10.07	TURKU, Ruisrock
SU 11.07	AITOO, Kirkastusjuhlat
PE 16.07	TAMPERE, Tammerfest, Coloradon terassi
LA 17.07	VAASA, Rockperry
SU 18.07	JOENSUU, Ilosaarirock
SU 25.07	OULU, 45 Special
LA 31.07	KUPIO, Henry's Pub

Check out Viikate's website for the complete discography of all their vinyl and CD releases including DVDs and also their various appearances around Finland at www.viikate.com. Thanks again to Kaarle, and Tero Lehto who helped make this possible.

JUNK

A TODA MAQUINA

Univision Records / Universal

I picked this up in North Carolina, which has a fairly large Spanish populace, hoping that it might be some bad Spanish rap, as the guys on the cover looked “thugged out”. It’s not, and it’s even WORSE than one could imagine! How bad is it? They do a cover of Air Supply’s “I’m all out of Love” in Spanish. Lots of traditional accordion type music if that’s your bag, but it just left me feeling like I downed a turkey platter of burritos. A prime example of image over product. Lame, with a capital “L”.



GOLDEN YEARS OF CLASSIC TELEVISION – GAME SHOWS VOL 1.

Starring: Various

Director: Various

One of the better DVD releases by this cheapo DVD company. The print of I’VE GOT A SECRET is missing about 5-10 minutes but it’s always been a fun game show. WHAT ARE THE ODDS isn’t really a game show – it basically has lots of odd statistics and testimonials. Well, it filled in half an hour anyhow. Vincent Price shows off his knowledge of art on “\$64,000 QUESTION” (wasn’t that one of the game shows that was rigged?). DOLLAR A SECOND was my favourite, where contestants do goofy Tupperware party type activities and try to do these games before their time runs out. I dream of having Game Show Network on basic cable, but in the meantime, it’s fun to pop in fun DVDs like this, and for \$5, why not?

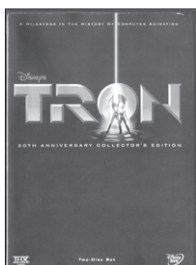


TRON (1982)

Starring: Jeff Bridges, Bruce Boxleitner, David Warner

Director: Stephen Lisburger

Looking at Tron after 20 years (I hadn’t seen it when I was younger), I decided it really was a pretty impressive piece of work as far as computer animation is concerned, and to think of the technology back in 1982 when this was done it’s even more incredible. Computer programmer Flynn (Jeff Bridges) hacks the mainframe of his previous employers to prove he created a programme. He then gets sucked into the mainframe and is a participant in the gladiator type games on the grid, and the escape. Great concept for a story, but the film somehow doesn’t really do anything to hook viewers. As this was the first fully-animated by computer film, it’s still really interesting to just LOOK at. This two-disk 20th Anniversary set put out by Disney (Blah!) features over 5 hours of extras. It might just make you want to go pull out your Intellivision and play “Tron Deadly Discs” after sitting through the 2 DVDs!



TIMO RAUTIAINEN & TRIO NISKALAUKAUS

Ranka Recordings / Spinefarm / Universal Finland

I traded my beloved Philadelphia Flyers hockey jersey in order to get this! TIMO RAUTIAINEN & TRIO NISKALAUKAUS play great melodic dark metal in a very Finn way, with lots of repetition in regards to chord progressions and a “chunk chunk” kind of sound for the melody. This disk features some concerts including one in Jyväskylä and “live tavastialla”. Don’t expect any interesting cut-aways, as it’s primarily a Timo concert filmed straight on. The DVD also features some videos, including my favourite for



“Rajaton Rakkaus” and the goofy “Nyt on Mies” (which features some guy working out with the band around him, not a good concept!). This is a disc made for the die-hard fans of the band, but it might not have enough visual “spice” to engross the first time viewer.

HEY “Music Music”

Warner Music Poland

HEY is one of those rare exceptions when it comes to music from the 90s. They continue to do albums (think of how many groups out of the 90’s DON’T do that anymore!) and they have always provided good grunge-influenced “music”. This album features many tracks that still have their grunge roots, but they seem to be nibbling around other things such as electronics, and even horns! All the tracks begin with the letter M. “Manto” sounds like a typical HEY track but it all gets shuffled from there. One of my favourite bands (and concerts that I saw) from the 90’s, and still putting out interesting records with bite. HEY, that says lots.



THE RIMERS OF ELDRITCH (1974)

Starring: Susan Sarandon, Rue McClanahan, Frances Sternhagen

Director: Davey Marlin-Jones

Thank you Kultur Video! They are going into the vaults of PBS and releasing older dramatic works (see also the review for “The Star Wagon”), which have long been forgotten or ignored, all on the DVD format. Filmed in 16mm, this rendition of Landford Wilson’s “The Rimers of Eldritch” is an interesting telling of the parallel story of sexual assault of a teenage girl (in a leg brace) and a murder in the small sleepy town of Eldritch. Rue McClanahan (The Golden Girls) is sleeping with a drifter. Susan Sarandon talks about boys while sipping Coca-Cola from bottles. It would be an interesting adaptation if the photography was better (Marlin-Jones approached this thing NOT storyboarding, or preferred long shots to let everything play out). Regardless, with this release, the transfer is FAR from sharp. But for those interested in seeing early work by Sarandon, or a fan of the play, it’s worth checking out. Other than that, it might have the average Hollywood viewer “twitching”.



THE STAR WAGON (1967)

Starring: Dustin Hoffman, Orson Bean, Eileen Brennan

Director: Karl Genus

Another early PBS dramatic presentation (maybe even when it was still National Educational Television) filmed in black and white video, and excellent. A frustrated inventor (Orson Bean) whose wife and boss are nagging at him, takes his sidekick Hanus (Dustin Hoffman, pre “The Graduate”) back in time to see if he can change fate by marrying another girl during a picnic where he almost drowns. Remember, this is PRE-PBS, so they possibly had a budget of about \$5 to make this (still, the video equipment was VERY expensive), but the performances are excellent. You can look at Hoffman’s performance in this Maxwell Anderson play from 1930 and see where he pulled elements of his character here, and applied it to his performance in “Papillon”. Quality is quality, and THE STAR WAGON has stars that shine in excellent performances. The DVD is chaptered for all 3 acts.



KOPHU “Habeka”

Mainstream Production

For those like me for a penchant for Russian boy-bands, here comes Korn! Yep, that’s what their name translates into English. But at least compared to some Russian boy bands, KORNI at least tries lots of

different things musically. “**Ты узнаешь ее**” sounds like typical Russian boyband stuff, and so does something such as “**5000 тонн света**”. But tracks such as “**Только я и ты**” musically sound like an Atari on acid. Top it all off with KORNİ doing a version of Queen’s “We will Rock You” in English, which mixes a piano solo, strained vocals, and guitar riffs with horns. Just when you think this slice of odd Russian boyband fun is over, they provide you with (get this) a “big beat” version of the classic “Music to Watch Girls By”! One of them can’t sing very well, but KORNİ just gets my cob hard due to the fact that it’s somewhat of an interesting Russian boyband album. And hey, that means somethin’! (Don’t ask me what!)



THE LAST AMERICAN VIRGIN (1982)

Starring: Lawrence Monoson, Diane Franklin, Steve Antin

Director: Boaz Davidson

Copies of this Cannon Films flick fetched over \$100 on the early days of Ebay, and y’know if someone were to offer me that amount of money for my old VHS long-box copy, I wouldn’t have taken it! It should be in the top 5 teen movies from the Eighties and anyone who has seen it, remembers it. Gary (Monoson) and his friends just want to get laid, that is until he sees Karen (Diane Franklin, who was also in BETTER OFF DEAD). Too bad Rick dates her, knocks her up, and Gary comes to the rescue all while Journey’s “Open Arms” plays after her abortion. In the end, Gary gets burned, and everyone comes off of watching the film relating to it all. The film also has lots of great laughs, as it’s basically the American remake of “Lemon Popsicle”, the number one Israeli film of all time. The DVD features the usuals, but still, having this in the digital domain makes me damn happy. And by watching it, I also learned that you can’t kill pubic crabs by drowning them in a public pool! Thanks, Meneham Golan!



22 PISKERPIRKKO “Rally of Love”

Bare Bone Business / Playground

This 2001 CD by this fine Finnish band got released years later in Russia, where my pressing came from. I’m not sure why, but whatever. PISKERPIRKKO sing interesting songs in English with “Rally in Love” and many lyrics embrace the elements of nature such as “Car Wash” and “I’m a Moon Around You” with its various melody changes (it’s my favourite track off the disk). For those who haven’t heard of the band, they combine interesting vocals, with simplistic electronics to aid into a visual presentation of their even more simplistic, but vivid lyrics. Sometimes it reminds me of that British band that everyone talked about the hype that were the assholes. What were they called again? Nevermind, I have 22 PISKERPIRKKO in my collection. That’s a much better thing.

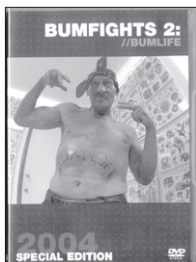


BUMFIGHTS 2: BUMLIFE (2004)

Starring: Some poor unfortunate souls.

Director: Some person who should burn in hell

OK, let me tell you about ONE of the things featured on this repulsive disc. There’s a segment in “Bum hunter” (Spoofing CROCODILE HUNTER) where an unfortunate homeless person is held down, duct taped, and then afterwards tied to a tree where they “wash” him like a car. On closer examination, you can see the man crying. Watching someone down on his luck be treated inhumanely isn’t my idea of entertainment. Is it yours?



LEONARD NIMOY GOES IN SEARCH OF.....THE UNSOLVED PUZZLES OF NAZI GERMANY

Starring: Leonard Nimoy

Director: Various

As a kid, “In Search Of...” was a show that freaked the shit out of me. Many Seventies kids, I’m sure, thought the same thing with its various conspiracies, UFO sightings and “Phenomenon”. I haven’t seen it in syndication since A&E showed it at one point in the really early Nineties. That’s why it was cool to find this old USA HOME VIDEO release in the bargain bin of a Portuguese video store in my hood. It features 3 episodes of the series. The “Eva Braun” episode discusses that Hitler’s mistress isn’t dead because her dental records have discrepancies (uh, she burnt! Maybe that’s why!). THE ANGEL OF DEATH talks about “legendary Nazi Hunter”, Simon Wiesenthal’s quest to capture Dr. Josef Mengele so that “the world would not forget”. It ends with “Nazi Plunder” which is about all the hidden art, and how tons of gold was hidden in Swiss lakes (later shown to be bank accounts). Leonard Nimoy lays on the conspiracies thicker than Skippy on white bread, but still the tape is interesting (even if sometimes hokey) after all these years. I’ll have to search for other Portuguese video stores for the other volumes in this series. (Did any of you ever see the episode of IN SEARCH OF.. on “Jonestown”? CREEPY!)



OF FREAKS AND MEN (Russia 1998)

Starring: Sergei Makeovetsky, Dinara Drukarova

Director: Alexei Balabanov

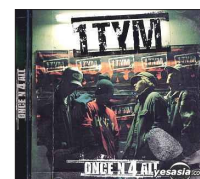
One can’t begin to unravel the plot of this strange and beautifully photographed Russian film which basically tells the story of upper class families’ involvement with early “flogging” and “spanking” pornographic images (you’ve read right). Johann, who is the bald headed creep behind the production of the photographs (and later motion picture of the floggings) also steals two Asian Siamese twins (while their submissive and blind stepmother later “acts” in the films). But wait! The Siamese twins can sing and play the piano as well! Blabanov has made a film that with its intricate yet disturbing plot is a fascinating sit through. In laymen’s terms, mix Zalman King with Guy Maddin, and you might get the picture. Balabanov can mix tragedy, comedy, and tint it all in sepia. After seeing it, it would easily be in my top 10 films for the Nineties. Anna muelle piiskaa!



1TYM VOL. 4 “Once N 4 All”

EMI Korea

My introduction to 1TYM was hearing their track “Hot” (from this album) while shopping for the Korean biscuit that looks like a mushroom with a chocolate “head”. Mmm, those are good! Okay, back to the review! “Once N 4 All” had the potential to be a good album of Korean hip-hop with tracks such as “Uh-oh”, but then hearing sap such as “It’s Over” just verges towards the “safe” realm of “canto pop”. Their karaoke crooning isn’t that bad, but after hearing the previous material from older volumes by these Korean kids, it’s lost its gritty rap and basement recording production, creating instead something that’s trying to please everyone. Still “Hot” is catchy, but as far as the rest of the material, fans of 1TYM can hope for Volume 5!



I RING DOORBELLS (1946)

Starring: Anne Gwynne, Roscoe Karns, Robert Shayne

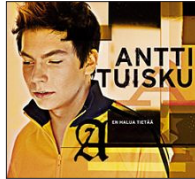
Director: Frank R. Strayer

A long lost cheapie comedy romp from PRC, just recently released on the VIDEO DINER label. Dick Meadows (Robert Shayne) returns from an attempt at making it on Broadway to his hometown newspaper

reporter job. When he meets a love interest, Brooke (Anne Gwynne) and has to investigate “rumors” of his boss’ son’s fiancée (in terms of infidelity), it all leads to the hi-jinx in this “mystery-comedy”. The dialogue in “I Ring Doorbells” is filled with zingers and the bad acting by the French maid Yvette (Dora Caron), who herself adds to the comedy situations by exaggerating lines like “Oh mais oui!” endlessly. It features dancing, whistling, kids tearing apart a newspaper office and a murder, all caught by the aid of a “wired hidden camera” (I’m sure state of the art for 1947!). Good dialogue, a script with everything makes the film a fun way to spend a little over an hour. Great title for a film too!

ANTTI TUISKU “En Halua Tietää”
BMG Finland

Antti came in something I think like 3rd in “Idol” in Finland. I’m sure many young Finn girls wished they could invite Antti to one of their sleepovers, while their parents speculated if he was gay or not. Wait a sec; doesn’t this guy look like Clay Aiken? Don’t people think Clay Aiken is gay too? Maybe I could put them both in a play that would kind of be a “Finn-American” version of “The Odd Couple”. Man, that would play dinner theatres till the cows come home! I could tour with the whole thing and eat roast beef with horseradish at every Stage West from here to Arizona. However, I’m sure Clay doesn’t know Finnish. I’m not even sure if any Finns know who Clay is. I’m not sure they are losing sleep because they don’t have Clay. Besides, they have Antti! Oh, wait a minute; this is supposed to be a review of the Antti Tuisku CD single! I’m sure many readers are dying to know what I think of the various mixes. But the thing is, my dream about the roast beef dinner is far more interesting. And you know, if I did a tour of Clay and Antti doing dinner theatres of “The Odd Couple” every night, I could technically have no problem eating roast beef EVERY night. Can we talk about that instead? Wait, I just did.



THE RASMUS “Dead Letters”
Universal Music

RASMUS were FAR from one of my favourite bands from Finland after being introduced to them years back via the SUOMIPOP dvd. But with “Dead Letters”, they’ve got it right lyrically and musically, and it might be one of the only interesting corporate rock albums to be offered to North Americans this year. It starts out with the ultra-hook-laden “In the Shadows” and albeit sappy, “First Day of My Life” which I still like, even a year later (this album is slowly being bounced continent to continent and I heard tracks from it last year). Lyrically, you can tell they are from Suomi with a track such as “Still Standing”, which has the lyrics “I wish you were here with me to see the Northern Lights”. It all ends with the violin laden “Funeral Song”. It rocks out, and it’s catchy. It might be their only album like that. And lyrically, it might have struck me at the “right place right time”, and if many friends were to ask me how I were feeling, I’d hand them a copy of DEAD LETTERS!



A BLACK VEIL FOR LISA (1967)

Starring: John Mills, Luciana Paluzzi
Director: Massimo Dallamano

As dirt is thrown on a casket, the viewer hears the whispered “Leeeessssa!” John Mills (Hayley’s dad) stars in this obscure giallo as a Police Sergeant Frank Bulon who’s investigating a murder and dealing with his wife’s infidelity (the wife is the sexy Luciana Paluzzi). When the man with the badge asks a hit man (the under-rated Robert Hoffman) to keep “tabs” on his wife and test her fidelity, everything gets even murkier. It’s interesting in terms of giallos because you pretty much know who the killer is halfway through the film, but then it leaves questions in regards to Lisa’s relationships. Is she hanging with a murderer or murderers? John Mills is great, and with films such as “Lisa”, my penchant for European crime thrillers is expanding. Look for a cross eyed snitch and a tacky pop song about Lisa over the end credits.

More Mysteries from Beyond Earth

continued from page 1

lied about being bombed at in Afghanistan) back in the day made me totally paranoid. There’s tons of footage of exorcisms, people claiming to breed babies for demonic ceremonies, and of course an interview with Ozzy Osbourne. Zeena LaVey (Anton’s daughter) proves that public speaking isn’t her forte, and Geraldo goes and finds army bunkers in Omaha with “666” on the walls. I taped this for some weird reason and pull it out from time to time. It still is spooky. Especially hearing kids talking about doing time for murder and blaming listening to Iron Maiden albums. This “Geraldo Rivera Special” (I think there were 3 or 4 in total) is the most creepy, even more than when he opened Al Capone’s vault and found some sand and old bottles.

UFO’S

ROSWELL (1994)

This “Docu Drama” actually is pretty bang-on in regards to being a good translation of facts from the Kevin Randle book “UFO Crash At Roswell”. Kyle MacLachlan plays Jesse Marcel, who starts to investigate the infamous crash 30 years later during a reunion of former Roswell base members. Slowly, they start to unveil their stories and break their silence. Country singer Dwight Yoakam plays the hick farmer who finds chunks of it all over his ranch. Many Roswell conspiracies are explored in this dramatic format including the material the UFO was made of, the alien bodies, etc. Martin Sheen also pops up at the end somewhat like the wizard of “The Wizard of Oz” to speculate even more to a bewildered Marcel as he spills conspiracy over conspiracy in an airport hangar. Roswell, which was made for the Showtime network is entertaining, and hey, it could be real!

PSYCHIC ENERGY

THE AMAZING KRESKIN (70’s)

It wasn’t a movie, but this was when CTV made fun interesting programs that didn’t have Canadians belting out karaoke. Famed mentalist Kreskin would do many mental tricks and with the audience and special guests (I remember the episode with Patrick MacNee very well!). Lots of times he would stand on the stage and say vague things such as “I’m seeing someone in the audience lost someone recently. Who is that?” as some giddy housewife in Ottawa (where it was filmed) got all excited as Kreskin showed he was on “their” wavelength. The show (which was in syndication even in Mexico in the early Nineties!) opened with this great moog theme and great graphics. You can test your powers just like Kreskin with his Milton Bradley “E.S.P” game! (Which I have.)

THE PYRAMIDS

CHARIOTS OF THE GODS (1970)

Germany’s version of William Beaudine (Harald Reinl) directed this film that’s based on the book by the king of Seventies conspiracies, Erich Von Daniken. There’s lots of rambling narration and speculation that basically ties in that “beings from another world” constructed the Pyramids. The hieroglyphics inside the pyramids prove this! Well, as far as Von Daniken is concerned. This IS the “Gone with the Wind” of Seventies conspiracy films for sure. The constant aerials of pyramids and rambling won’t be too entertaining for younger viewers. The paperback, based on the film sold zillions of copies around the world and to this day is a flea market favorite.

