

KONFLIKT IN THE KINO

Issue 13

WHEN PICTURES AND SOUND COLLIDE THERE ARE FATALITIES

When Teachers are too lazy to teach, bring on “Teachers Little Helper”!

Skip Elsheimer of A-V Geeks and your classroom favourites



You’ve come to class and you look at the teacher mulling over his or her desk. This professional educator looks bored from teaching the same lecture over and over and if they’ve been teaching in the public school system, more than likely they are simply bored. As the restless class takes its seats, you eyeball the projector set up in the back of the class. You peruse the size of the reel. You think, “oooh, it’s a big one! That will eat up some time!” As the teacher yammers on about the subject and your fellow students fake attentiveness, he/she then says, “I have a film to show on this subject. Lights please.” During this time, teachers then skip out of the class for a smoke or maybe to gossip with other teachers about how sucky the job is. Remember those days?

Skip Elsheimer does, and has developed a deep appreciation of those films. Founder of A-V Geeks, he’s released several of these ephemeral classics on DVD (released by Fatoma) for those who also have an appreciation of these oddball, sometimes dated, often shocking, classroom celluloid classics.

“About ten or so years ago, I was occasionally bidding on government surplus auctions - trying to buy riot gear or old printing presses” says Elsheimer. “Many of the things I got at these auctions were used by me and my roommates for experimental/electronic music performances. With one auction, we got eight pallets of audiovisual equipment - mostly TVs, old 3/4” VTRs and a 16mm projector. We found a film at a local flea market - “Contraception and Conception”. It was an odd animated

Canadian film.”

Obviously with a fondness for the sex lives of Canadians, Skip developed more of an interest in the 16mm educational genre, “It wasn’t the first film that did it” he says, “It was the first 500 films that we got for \$50 at an auction that sparked the light bulb. The films were from our state’s Department of Human Resources, so there lots of great films about venereal disease, drug abuse, driver’s education, nursing, etc. After a couple of nights of watching these films, I was hooked.”

Hooked indeed. Through the years, his collection has grown to a whopping 13,000 - virtually the size of some school boards’ entire collections. The Raleigh, North Carolina resident now stores these forgotten gems in his home, which used to be an old eight-bedroom boarding house. Instead of borders, rooms now contain rows and rows of reels either enjoyed or detested by students in their classrooms. Every type of genre, fear, how-to type of flick fills the rooms. The films are now his borders.

“Pretty much I’ll take whatever is offered to me. I usually get a phone call from a school teacher who has a car trunk load of films that were being thrown away. I’ll take them all. When looking on EBay, I tend to look for VD or propaganda films.”

One doesn’t need to even be at one of his screenings throughout the United States, or to buy one of his Fatoma DVD’s. Skip has also been involved with the Internet Archive. “Well, the Internet Archive (www.archive.org) is a pretty neat project” says Skip, “It is an online library filled with books, music and video - all of which can be freely downloaded. Some of the materials are actually public domain, which means that you can use them in your own projects. I’ve been helping digitizing films from various sources - including my own collection, the vast Prelinger archive and a bunch of public domain Feature Films.”

The A-V Geeks’ fine classroom fun is available online, via DVD, and its public screenings seem to have brought more outlets to the obsolete 16mm format (well, to the classroom anyhow!). For those that are itching to see THAT film again. Remember that one you say that’s stuck like gum underneath a desk seat to the back of your mind? Could it be “Soapy the Germ Fighter”? “Your Clothing Can Burn”? “VD, The Love Bug”??

The teacher pulls down the screen as you breathe in the chalk fumes, and maybe a little asbestos.

Lights please! 6-5-4-3-2-beep!

Visit A-V GEEKS @ www.avgeeks.com

SCRATCHEZ FROM THE D-MAN

I'm sure some of you have opened up this long delayed issue of KONFLIKT IN THE KINO the same way the late, great Clara Peller opened up a Wendy's burger: "Where's the beef?"

ISSUE #13 has been one of the hardest issues to assemble. Sometimes, getting the interviews together is hard enough, but it seems lately that life has thrown me many things in the meantime to keep me occupied beyond my wildest imagination. But I'm not complaining. Trying to set up interviews and review material, I still want to put out a zine to the world that will have new and fresh information for those who read it. For me, that means speaking with people and asking them more than the cookie cutter questions mainstream media dishes out. Or introducing others to areas past the borders of their known community, trying to bring artistic media around the world on paper.

The "meat" will return in ISSUE #14, which will be a retooled version of this issue (which will only be available for the Toronto screening of HUNKA JUNK 4). Meanwhile, #14, which will also contain our interview with Joey Greco from the TV show "Cheaters", and Pekka Malinen from the Finnish metal band "Malicious Death" will hit the United States at the end of December, along with more reviews and articles. This issue will be available in Canada AFTER January, or through local retailers that carry KONFLIKT IN THE KINO.

Besides the increase in KONFLIKT IN THE KINO's circulation, it's been a very interesting year for both me and the CONFLICT ARCHIVES. I've had an amazing year doing everything from presenting such cool cinema around North America, to spinning music for lots of different audiences including the receptive people from the Consulate of Finland and the Finnish-Canadian community (Thanks Richelle!), to writing and enjoying many elements all over the place. Oh yeah, there was that ED THE SOCK thing, but I'll share that in issue number 14!

As the holiday season quickly approaches us all. I wish you Happy Holidays and look forward to seeing you in the New Year! May the season bring you good friends and cheer, and kick-ass egg nog! All the best for both of us in 2005!

Especially to Stephe, Jennifer, Dave Faris, Richelle, Igor, Mowey, Colin, The two Tims, Tero, Mark and all those behind the scenes here at CONFLICT ARCHIVES and KONFLIKT IN THE KINO... Season's Greetings!

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.

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KONFLIKT IN THE KINO

(#13) (December 2004)

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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 Lyijykompania 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, Mowey McDonald, Keith Reardon, Igor, Owen, and you for your continued support. Thanks!

Photo: Richelle Forsey

BESHKEMPIR: THE ADOPTED SON (Kyrgyzstan/France, 1998)
Starring: Mirlan Abdykalykov, Albina Imasheva
Director: Aktan Abdykalykov

Beshkempir (Abdykalykov) hears gossip after getting in a fight with a fellow buddy that he's a "bastard" (adopted). The film details how the young Kyrgyzstani deals with these tribulations, the transition from boyhood into manhood and his first crush on a girl. There's also a great scene where he basically begs for money to go see some old rickety Bollywood flick being spooled in the middle of a field by a travelling showman. It's fairly simplistic, and it wraps up basically feeling like you've just seen a slice of life. Beautiful grainy black and white photography adds somewhat to the docudramatic feeling of the film. Beshkempir strips away many material things that youth in transition might be enamoured with in our culture and ultimately is just a story about what we all want, acceptance and answers.



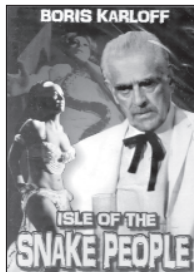
BIOHAZARD (1984)
Starring: Aldo Ray, Angelique Pettyjohn
Director: Fred Olen-Ray

Now on DVD, here's the dollar-store-director's \$60,000 homage to "Alien". In a secret location, a big boobed psychic (Angelique Pettyjohn, seen in Star Trek and adult films) uses her mental powers to "pull in" an alien (the director's 5 year old son in costume). After it escapes the Army's custody, it wreaks havoc in a nearby town where the psychic and a military guy try to stop it. This was Fred's first film shot in Panavision (where most of the money I'm sure went). There's a great scene where a bum finds a poster of E.T (referred to as "little ett") when the monster barrels out of a garbage dumpster, kills the homeless person, and stomps on the poster of the beloved Spielberg birthed extra-terrestrial. People harp on the flick, but if you were to compare it to the recent Alien vs. Predator, it's a hell of a lot more entertaining, and even a better plot! Johnny Legend has a song on the end credits, which also feature bloopers to pad it out to 70 minutes.



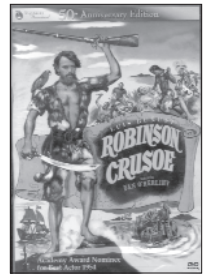
ISLE OF THE SNAKE PEOPLE (Mexico/USA) (1971)
Starring: Boris Karloff, Julissa, Carlos East
Director: Jack Hill/Juan Ibáñez

A narrator rattles on about some primitive island garbage and a young woman goes back to find "answers" and ends up visiting her uncle's plantation (the uncle is played by Boris Karloff in his 2nd last film). If it sounds like I'm having a problem describing the film, I ask you to watch it and try to decipher its almost nonexistent plot! There's some stuff with voodoo and devil worship as well under the voodoo religion "Damballah". Poor Boris was in such poor health, his footage was shot in LA, while the rest was shot in Mexico. The best thing about this Retromedia DVD release is the description on the back of the box which doesn't even bother to attempt to explain its "plot", but has lines such as "See this girl but a big snake in her mouth! See this guy cuddle a dead chicken!" The whole film is like a piñata with nothing in it.



ROBINSON CRUSOE (Mexico) (1954)
Starring: Dan O'Herlihy, Jaime Fernández
Director: Luis Buñuel

Avid Buñuel collectors have long wanted to see this in some format and after 50 years, VCI delivers this DVD with color and sound restoration and offers both Spanish and English versions of the classic story. Crusoe (O'Herlihy) gets shipwrecked on an island where eventually he meets Friday (Fernández) and their master/slave relationship evolves into friendship as they wait (however unoptimistically) for rescue. This was the first English film for Buñuel, and some might not easily find his trademark style as one of the founding fathers of surrealism, but the scenes where Crusoe bugs out on booze thinking of his crewmates are undoubtedly Buñuel's trademark. Jaime Fernández is excellent as Friday, stealing the show after Crusoe cuffs him. Perhaps not too "politically correct" to show children, it still features impressive moments and can provide a flipside seldom explored by Buñuel completists.



ARCADIA: THE MAKING OF / THE VIDEOS (1987)
Starring: Simon Le Bon, Roger Taylor
Director: Phil McDonald

Arcadia was FAR from one of my favourite Duran Duran side projects. But for those DD fans out there who loved Arcadia, here's a very loose documentary, padded out by some videos. As a documentary, it's piss poor. It's really just some behind the scenes footage haphazardly spliced together with lots of videos which feature way too much blue lighting. Look closely and you'll see the director of The Highlander (Russell Mulcahy) directing the video for "The Flame" which pays homage to The Rocky Horror Picture Show. This DVD also features audio mixes of their album, "So Red the Rose" which one reviewer called "the most pretentious album ever made." You can buy it on www.duran2.net.



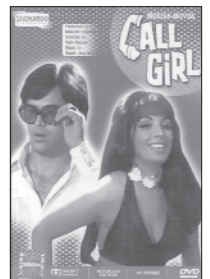
42nd STREET FOREVER

A great collection of 40 film trailers with flicks that I'm convinced may well have played the infamous street of grindhouse cinemas. It primarily sticks to boob and horror fare, but you do get to see the German theatrical trailer for Passolini's "120 Days of Sodom"! The best trailers were for "School Girl Bride," "The Mutations", "Devil's Rain", and "Crippled Masters". The trailer for Browning's "Freaks" which is also included would make you wonder what audiences would think upon seeing this (excuse the pun) "freaky" trailer. A well rounded collection of previews for those with a penchant for poor taste. It's limited to 1500 copies, so stop stalling and visit www.ban1productions.com.



CALL GIRL (India) (1974)
Starring: Vikram, Zahirra, Iftikhar, Helen
Director: Vijay Kapoor

The phone rings, then we get into a stills montage of a female sex worker getting ready while the Bollywood influenced song "I am a call girl" plays. From there, you know this will be classic Bollywood on the risqué side! Amar's a geeky artist who ends up falling for Kamini, who's hiding the fact that she's naturally, a call girl. Kamini eventually comes clean (playing the "Pretty Woman" scenario) and tells Amar she's got into the profession because she was raped. Amar and his mother stick



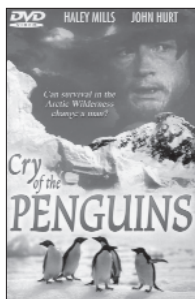
by Kamini's side until she meets her rapist, Amar's dad! The songs are OK and director Kapoor throws away a lot of the "happy happy happy" feeling so common in Bollywood movies of this period. You'll never see a film with so many tacky curtains in your life!

CRY OF THE PENGUINS (United Kingdom)
(1971)

Starring: John Hurt, Hayley Mills

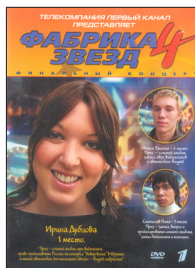
Director: Arne Sucksdorff, Alfred Viola

John Hurt plays Richard Forbush, a sluggish student who tries to impress Tara (Hayley Mills) by telling her he's going to be going on an expedition by himself to Antarctica to study penguins for six months. The first half hour almost feels like a boring Brit sex comedy without the punchlines and Robin Askwith to save it, but once in Antarctica, Hurt's character goes through a transformation of sorts as he connects with himself, and the penguins. The cinematography is top notch once in Antarctica with incredible shots of the penguins arriving onshore and protecting their eggs from buzzards. "Cry of the Penguins", an interesting and unique story (which you can get on DVD for about \$3) can actually be summed up by the commonly used, but sometimes exaggerated term "it gets better". Look also for Brit movie staple, Tony Britton.



Фабрика Эвжеп 4 (2004)

Screw that stupid Idol franchise! This DVD features clips of the Russian TV show "Fabrika", which has MUCH higher production values than Karaoke Idol, and the talent actually sings their own material! Imagine that! Picture "Solid Gold" (but they sing) on acid in a stadium, in Russian and you've got the general concept of "Fabrika". This DVD has 43 different performances, plus one dance number. Standout performers would be personal favourites of mine such as Hi-Fi, Reflex and Корни and new faves such as ИВаНушки int., Smash!, Наля Игошина (Аляина) and the talent from Fabrika 4 singing a nice version of "Россия-землюпики!". Никита Малинин might look like a Russian Justin Timberlake, but I still like his music, and ditto with the bubblegum-beat influenced number, complete with fake snow by Александр Малинин. It's the most entertaining Russian music DVD compilation so far. Try picturing a music show here in Canada at SkyDome with 44 different Canadian artists and the audience singing ALL the words to every song!



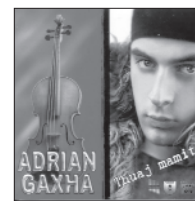
BOOM GANG "Shtrengo, Oj Shtrengoj"
Eurolica

My first thought after looking at the cover of this CD from Albania's BOOM GANG was that "Geez, they look like MEAT BEAT MANIFESTO!" and yes, that group's influence is evident, with some crossover hip-hop elements referencing the bustin rhymes ala maybe MC 900 FT JESUS WITH DJ ZERO (remember them?). When BOOM GANG do a "boomin" track such as the title track "Shtrengo, Oj Shtrengoj" or my fave from the disc, "Shih, Shih, Shih", it all works and is catchy. "Qoni Duarte Larte" however is a blatant copy from a certain 1998 smash that kind of dips into their credibility. Maybe they just thought no curious Canadians like myself would actually score a copy and notice! BOOM GANG won't make a huge bang with this album, but several of its 9 track (including 2 instruments) will make you want to move.



Adrian Gaxha "Thuaj Mamit"
Albanota

Is Adrian Gaxha Macedonia's answer to SHAWN DESMAN? Well, maybe around the "Tia Maria" phase of Desman's career. "Thuaj Mamit" starts off with "Shqipes", and while it's catchy, it may make you think you're in for a world beat album as it sounds like a mosque "getting down". It shifts gears however, for more catchy pop. "Blic Dhe Flesh" sounds like a great track you would hear in a Tirona rub-n-tug and "Thuaj Mamit" has a great video and a catchy track which I've played about a hundred times (no joke). A great mix of traditional, yet upbeat music and catchy pop. Bad design, good album!

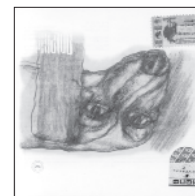


TOKIO "Tokio"
RDM Russia

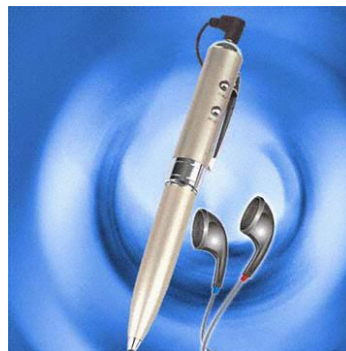
Luckily the first track was the "scrapper" right off the track!, with "Cher", a slapped together job of some bad rap. But TOKIO has an energy that it shares with the city of the same name. Sometimes it sounds like KILLING JOKE, sometimes TEQUILA JAZZZ. The tracks "Звезда", "Только ты", and "Папыны-Нарууники" (all in a row!) with their swift warbly electronic rhythms and sloppy baseline that sounds like BAUHAUS on mescaline, work. If you're waiting (like me) for a new TEQUILA JAZZZ album, this will appeal to Russian fans of TJ, or hell, maybe, excuse the pun, a few good ramen.

DOLPHIN "Звезда"
Universal Music Russia

I've been a fan of DOLPHIN since picking up his first live album at a supermarket in Estonia. I also have a sizable experimental music collection of old industrial. Now, his last CD was sounding like BEASTIE BOYS mixed with NURSE WITH WOUND or something, but this one is even stranger. Instead of bustin his classic rhymes, the flipper inspired Russian "sings" as he screeches by on strange electronic landscapes, barely creating rhythm. But ingeniously, it works. But for those hoping this mammal will bust into rhymes, it WON'T happen on this disc. "Звезда" is one of the few CD's that has come out this year that I can say, "Well, that's interesting!"



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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!

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